



AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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Volume XXI Number 2

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

January 15, 1998



MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON addresses the gathering at last Friday night's Inaugural at The Oaks. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Mayor Predicts Fifth Term Of "Peace & Harmony" In Town

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

In his first public statement since being sworn in for his fifth term in office, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson predicted a term that will be marked by peace and harmony in the town government and a term that will bring prosperity to the town.

At last Friday night's Inaugural Celebration at The Oaks on Suffield Street, Johnson promised a bright year ahead for Agawam students with the renovations and additions progressing at five schools and the continued progress on rewriting the curriculum.

"I can't imagine a better time to be a student in Agawam," Johnson said. "The new additions are only going to further the spirit of cooperation and pioneering in our schools."

Turning his attention to the long-awaited plan to build a new DPW garage, Johnson vowed (to a burst of applause), "Once and for all, we are going to get a new DPW facility in Agawam. It's been too many years on the drawing board. Twenty-seven years in a temporary facility is long enough."

Within the next few months, Johnson pledged to bring forward a proposal for Town Council's consideration.

Entering his fifth term, Johnson said he's never felt a more positive spirit about the town's government and about the town.

"My door is always open," Johnson said. "Please come in and let me know your suggestions. I want to make Agawam the best place in the Pioneer Valley to live, work, and raise a family."

With a crowd of just over 200 friends, family members, and political supporters looking on, Johnson, School Committee members, and Town Councilors participated in mock swearing-in ceremonies as Town Clerk Richard Theroux administered their oaths of office for the second time in a week. Theroux had officially sworn-in the town's newly elected officials prior to the Town Council meeting on January 5th.

After congratulating them, Theroux offered some words of wisdom from U.S. Rep. Barney Frank for the times when the going gets tough and the issues get difficult. "The voters, they're no bargain either," quoted Theroux.

SEE INAUGURAL NIGHT - Page 5...

Berkshire Power To Try Again On Tax Treaty

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Having successfully completed the financial closing on its plan to build a 252 megawatt, gas-fired power plant in the industrial park on Moylan Lane, Berkshire Power is turning its attention to reaching a payment in-lieu-of-tax agreement with the town nearly two years after Town Council refused to act on its original offer of \$1 million escalating at three percent a year.

In the summer of 1996, the majority of town councilors felt that no action should be taken while an ongoing court battle between the power developers and abutters opposed to the project continued, and most councilors agreed that the offer was too low.

Now that Berkshire Power has successfully addressed the concerns of its neighbors and been granted a state exemption from local zoning, the company is moving ahead with the construction of a \$185 million electric generating plant.

Groundbreaking is expected before the end of the month, and negotiations between the company and the town should reopen soon to hammer out a new tax treaty for the council's consideration.

SEE BERKSHIRE POWER - Page 2...

Mitnick Receives Rotary's Harris Award



AGAWAM ROTARIAN RICHIE MITNICK, who has delighted folks in the region with his music, has received the Rotary Club's prestigious Paul Harris Award. Rotarian Donald Morris (left) presented Richie with the Harris Award as Kathy Mitnick (Richie's wife) looks on. Mitnick is the owner and operator of Sounds Of Music on Memorial Avenue in West Springfield. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

BERKSHIRE POWER - from Page 1...

Berkshire Power President Michael Armitage said, "It is our plan to submit a building permit application, an oil storage license application, and a tax treaty to the town before February 15th. We're looking for a quick resolution with these issues."

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, who negotiated the original payment in-lieu-of-tax agreement with Berkshire Power, still favors the idea of a tax treaty with the power company rather than taxing the company's real estate and personal property.

Legislation Deregulating The Electric Industry...

Johnson said the legislation deregulating the electric industry encourages communities to enter into in-lieu-of-tax payments with power companies, partly because it is generally recognized that the value of power plants will be lower under the new valuation rules, and partly to save communities from becoming enmeshed in the nightmare of yearly disputes with power plants over the assessed valuation of their property.

"The legislation recognizes that the value of power plants would be lower than under the old method of valuation," Johnson said. "Cities currently taxing utility plants would take an immediate, severe financial hit. That's why the legislation requires the city of Plymouth to enter a payment in-lieu-of-tax agreement with their nuclear power plant for the next 13 years to ease off the shock of losing a big chunk of change."

Furthermore, Johnson said bringing Berkshire Power onto the tax rolls would have a negative effect on the overall tax levy by upsetting the balance between the portion of the tax levy paid by business and industry and the portion paid by the residential class.

If Berkshire Power is taxed as a business, the town could become mired down in a nightmare of litigation over annual tax abatement applications if the company thinks the assessment is too high, Johnson said. Presently, the Appellate Tax Board takes about five years to settle abatement requests, and the town would have to set aside the amount of the abatement in the overlay reserve account while the dispute was being settled, according to Johnson.

Johnson Seeks Council's Input...

While he is willing to reopen negotiations with Berkshire Power, Johnson said he would be looking for an indication, possibly in the form of a resolution, that the Town Council is interested in working out a tax treaty. And he'll be looking for the council's input at the bargaining table.

"If the council is interested in pursuing this, I will ask that a representative from the council be designated to sit at the table to participate in the negotiations," Johnson said.

Council President Donald Rheault said he welcomed the fact that the Mayor has stated that he wants to involve the council, but he is reserving comment until he has time to discuss the situation with the Mayor. A meeting between the two has been scheduled.

"It's welcome news that we are going to work together in the spirit of cooperation," Rheault said. "I'd like to sit down and get the Mayor's thoughts on this, do my own research, and then give my judgment on it."

Rheault agreed it was important to have a councilor in on the negotiations, suggesting himself as the logical choice because the council president works directly with the Mayor on a regular basis.

LEGAL NOTICE**LEGAL NOTICE****TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, January 22, 1998 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Matroni for property located at 127 Katherine Drive.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: January 15, 1998

LEGAL NOTICE**LEGAL NOTICE****TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 1998 at 7:45 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the petition of the Town of Agawam for work to be performed on River Road, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: January 15, 1998

FireWise...

by Fire Chief David A. Pisano
Open Burning Guidelines

The Department of Environmental Protection has designated January 15, 1998 through May 1, 1998 for open burning.

Certain guidelines have been established and must be adhered to.

The Agawam Fire Department will issue and monitor each permit on a daily basis. Permits will only be issued weather permitting, and only to those locations meeting these guidelines. CMR 10.22.

1. Burning of brush, cane driftwood, and forestry debris will be allowed.

2. No grass, hay leaves, stumps, paper products, trash of any kind will be allowed. CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED AT ANY TIME.

3. Burning shall take place between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

4. NO COMMERCIAL OR INSTITUTIONAL BURNING PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED.

5. Burning shall be at a location greater than 75 feet from any dwelling or structure.

6. Outside burning for cooking purposes is allowed.

7. NEVER USE GASOLINE TO START THE FIRE.

8. Someone must attend the fire until completely extinguished. Have water supply handy at all times.

ANY FIRE WHICH IS DETERMINED TO BE A HEALTH HAZARD OR NUISANCE, WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE EXTINGUISHED IMMEDIATELY.

All permits will be issued from Fire Headquarters, 800 Main Street, Agawam. The phone number is 786-2662.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE "911" NUMBER TO CALL FOR PERMITS.

For copies of photos in this edition, call AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053...

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- Theodore Roosevelt



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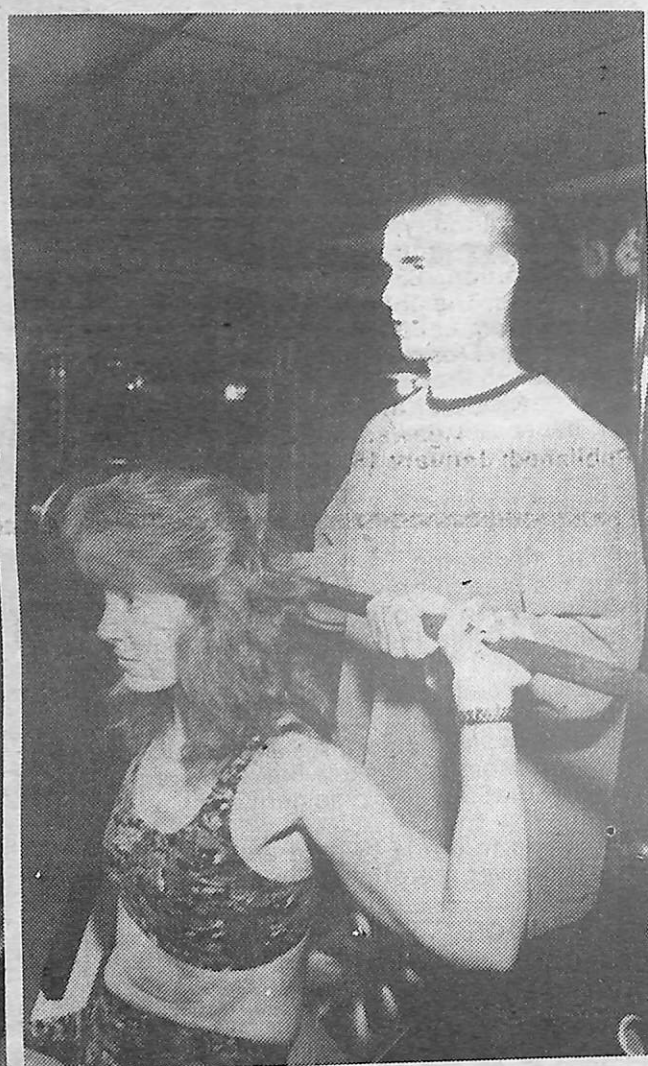
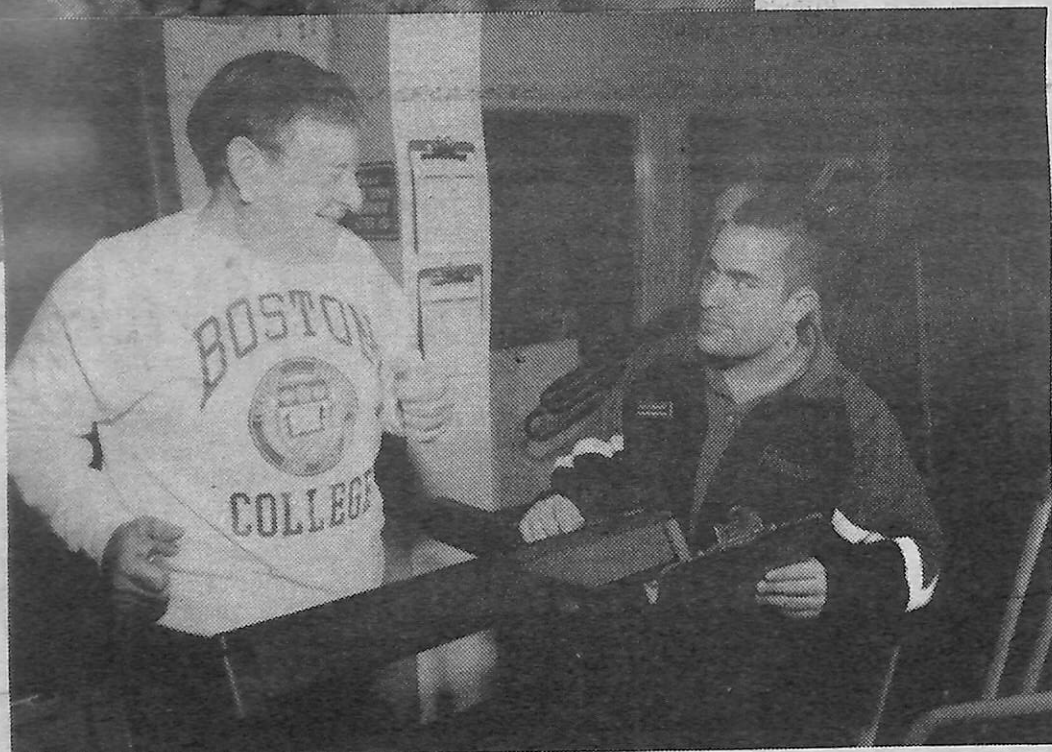
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Letters To The Editor

JoAnne Condon Contributed Much To Town Of Agawam

To The Editor:

This letter is a tribute to JoAnne Condon, who passed away January 7, 1998. She was the immediate past-chairman of the Agawam Cultural Council and contributed so much to Agawam.

As chairman, she administered the granting process. All of these grants in some way work for the betterment of Agawam. Many provide interesting programs open to everyone without charge.

Those who attend the Council's First Friday programs at the Agawam Library can attest to the quality of these offerings. She provided strong leadership, attending to all the details. She also was a supporter and worker in Agawam's New Year's Eve "Mid Winter Nights."

For the Summer Concert Series sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council, she did the publicity, put up the location signs, and you would always find her in attendance on her lawnchair, enjoying the concert.

She will be missed. We acknowledge the legacy she has left.

Virginia Heyl
Agawam

Fairness Should Be Extended To Citizen's Speak Time

To The Editor:

When Mr. Donald M. Rheault last served as Town Council President, I was a very harsh critic. I firmly supported his candidacy, however, last year, because I knew his concern for this town's environment and home rule is genuine and sincere.

Serving as our new City Council President, I know that he will prove a supremely competent and fair moderator.

Such fairness, I pray, will extend to the management of Citizen's Speak Time, as well. I fear the regulation of this invaluable and very necessary public forum. I fear various elements may try to thwart our freedom of expression and attempt to censor this public forum. I worry that our new City Council may yet face efforts on the part of some to hamper debate and place limits on free speech, and I pray that our new president and City Council will not allow that.

No public forum is beyond abuse. I view such abuse, however regrettable, as the price we must

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

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LEGAL NOTICE

occasionally pay for freedom. I trust the public to determine for themselves when such abuse occurs and to view words spoken accordingly. The judgment is correctly theirs.

Should our public forum face unacceptable censorship, a less regulated public forum may yet be recreated on-line. Our City Council might not find that option at all desirable.

Sincerely,
Owen R. Broadhurst
Agawam

We Should Support Efforts To Save Betty's Old Towne House

To The Editor:

Making the local news lately has been the subject of the purchase and moving of Betty's Old Towne House and what Dennis Librera and Tom Fredette have undertaken to save this beautiful Agawam historical landmark.

These men should be commended for not allowing a beautiful piece of Agawam to be leveled for a new drug store. Yes, it is conceivable that progress will endure in this growing town, but to allow extinction of a landmark that has special meaning and memories to many of its residents, would be a real shame. Not to fight and show all the support we can to Tom and Dennis as they pursue this large and expensive endeavor would also be unfair.

In the next few months as the Town Council makes the decision whether to allow the zone change so Betty's can become a tea shop and artisans' gallery, it would be wonderful to see the town residents showing support for this project.

Mr. Fredette and Mr. Librera would deeply appreciate any kind of support we can show them.

Sincerely,
Erin Shepard
Agawam

Charest Thanks Johnson For Keeping His "Promise"

To The Editor:

Dear Mayor Johnson:

This letter is being written to thank you very much for keeping your promise of having a traffic light installed at the corner of Suffield Street and South Street.

As you know, that corner has been the site of numerous accidents and has earned the infamous recognition as one of the most dangerous in town.

I, and I'm sure several others, talked to you about the situation at this corner and you assured me that a permanent light would be installed. That light is now in full operation. Several residents who live in that area have expressed their happiness to me and feeling of relief.

I want you to know how delighted my family and I feel about the new light being installed. You have made a very dangerous situation a safe one.

Sincerely,
Donald J. Charest
Agawam

of ANTHONY AND JANE FAZIO, who are seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a "Duplex Style Residential Structure" at the premises identified as: LOT No. 4, GARDEN STREET.

Ronald A. Hebert
Chairman

Published: January 15, 1998

Thomas Pyne Fund & Whiting St. Fund Seek New Commissioner

Please be advised the Town of Agawam is seeking an Agawam voter to fill a current vacancy on the Board of Commissioners to Administer the Thomas Pyne Fund and Whiting Street Fund.

The funds were established to benefit the "worthy poor" in the Town of Agawam. The Board of Commissioners shall, so far as consistent with the terms of the wills, manage, and control the same, consider applications for assistance and distribute the income in accordance with the terms of the respective wills.

The Board of Commissioners shall keep a record of its activities, and at the close of each calendar year shall make a report to the Mayor and to the Council, showing the total amount of the funds, and their investments, receipts and disbursements on account of the same, setting forth in detail the sources of the receipts and the purposes of the expenditures.

Should any registered voter be interested in the above position, please contact the Mayor's Office in writing.

State Rep. Keenan To Visit With Agawam Seniors

Agawam seniors will be able to meet with State Rep. Dan Keenan in an informal setting at the Agawam Senior Center Library. Rep. Keenan has scheduled office hours during the month of January to listen to seniors' concerns and comments on issues facing the district and the state.

Rep. Keenan will be available on Wednesday, January 21st, between 10:30 and 11:45 a.m. No appointment is necessary.

Residents may also reach Rep. Keenan at his district office at 342 Springfield Street in Agawam, 786-4545.

Best local news...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Monday, January 19th
Annual AHS Band Auction
At Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church
Preview - 5:00 p.m.; auction - 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 19th
Agawam Junior Women's Club meeting
At Captain Leonard House, Main St., Agawam
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20th
Agawam Lioness Club board meeting
At Agawam Police Station Community Room
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 21st
Presentation on Child & Adult
Heimlich Maneuver (prior to Agawam
Healthy Advisory Committee meeting)
At Agawam Middle School Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 26th
Agawam Women's Club meeting
At Captain Leonard House, Main St., Agawam
7:30 p.m.

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INAUGURAL NIGHT - from Page 1...

A Surprise For Johnson...

Before inviting the crowd to the buffet table, Inaugural Committee Chairwoman Joann McGeoghan had a surprise in store for the Mayor. Calling for the house lights to dim, Mrs. McGeoghan directed the audience's attention to a slide show chronicling Johnson's life from the crib to his second-floor corner office at Town Hall.

"This is my gift to you for all the hard work you've done for Agawam," Mrs. McGeoghan told the Mayor.

Divided into three sections, the slide show depicted three stages in Johnson's life, with a musical theme playing in the background. Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" accompanied baby and childhood pictures; the theme from "Rocky" played along with scenes of Johnson and his wife Anna on the campaign trail and attending victory celebrations; finally, John Lennon's "Imagine" set the mood for scenes highlighting Johnson's accomplishments in office.

After watching his life flash before him, Johnson quipped, "This just proves that when I first got elected, I was skinny and had more hair."

Tickets for the event were \$22. Sponsorships were sold for \$75, entitling sponsors to two tickets and mention in the evening's program. The event was not a fundraiser. The fees charged covered the costs, according to Mrs. McGeoghan.

Sponsors for the event were Agawam Chamber of Commerce, Berkshire Power, Campbell Management Company, CHH Engraving, Dynamic Transmissions, Inc., E & M General Cleaning Services, J.R. Sweeping Service, Landmark Realtors, Law Office of Thomas S. Locke, Luigi's Auto Body, Parthenon Restaurant, Reinhardt Associates, Inc., Riverside Park, and Thorpe's Office Centre, Inc.



FEEDING HILLS RESIDENT JOANN MCGEOGHAN served as chairman of the 1998 Inaugural. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Ronald A. Hebert
Chairman



AT LAST FRIDAY'S INAUGURAL, Town Clerk Richard Theroux (left) swears in Agawam Town Councilors, from left - Gina Letellier, Robert Young, Gary Geiger, John Negrucci, Dennis Perry, President Donald Rheault, Vice-President Robert Magovern, Jill Simpson, Nancy Thompson, and George Bitzas. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

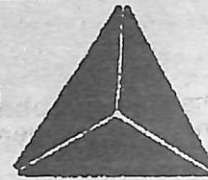
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Agawam's Inaugural Night 1998



AGAWAM MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON with his brother, father, and two nephews at the Inaugural festivities on Friday, January 9th, at The Oaks in Agawam. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS take their oath of office at last Friday night's Inaugural at The Oaks. From left - Susan Pettazzoni, Linda Galarneau, Louis Massoia, Roberta Doering, and Teresa Kozloski. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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of ANTHONY AND JANE FAZIO, who are seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a "Duplex Style Residential Structure" at the premises identified as: LOT No. 2, GARDEN STREET.

Ronald A. Hebert
Chairman

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Ronald A. Hebert
Chairman

Published: January 15, 1998

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View From The State House

by State Rep.
Daniel F. Keenan

1997 Year-End Review Part II:

Economic Development The Key To Prosperity in Western Massachusetts

The same issue that lured me into politics continues to be one of my top priorities: economic development and financial prosperity for Western Massachusetts.

Over the past year, Massachusetts has experienced economic recovery from the late 1980's that is projected to continue. Forecasts predict that the state's unemployment rate will drop to 3.0 percent by 2000. Presently, Massachusetts is a full point below the national average at 3.7 percent*. (* Forecast figures provided by Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.)

This is all good news, yet I ask myself how this can be great news. The answer is to focus on our communities in Western Massachusetts, and ensure that this recovery stretches beyond Boston and into our hometowns. In 1998, I am reaffirming my commitment to the economic development and job creation for the western region of the Commonwealth.

In 1998, I will build upon the initiatives of 1997. During the past year, the state legislature enacted key economic development legislation to sustain and propel our economy, including:

• **Convention Center Legislation:** The passage of this legislation is a milestone event for the Massachusetts economy. The legislation authorizes \$944.7 million for convention centers as well as other facilities across the state, including the Springfield Civic Center and Basketball Hall of Fame.

• **Uncompensated Care Pool:** Legislation was enacted to reform and strengthen the Commonwealth's Uncompensated Care Pool. This legislation equitably spreads responsibility for pool funding throughout the health care field resulting in savings for local community hospitals such as Baystate Medical Center and Noble Hospital. The Pool is our health care safety net, ensuring that every Massachusetts resident will receive needed acute hospital care without regard to ability to pay.

• **Unemployment Insurance Rates Reduction:** This legislation will yield savings of close to \$200 million for employers and reduce the average per employee cost, making the Commonwealth a more attractive place to locate and continue businesses both big and small. This legislation establishes schedule "C" as the unemployment rate for 1998. The 1997 rate was schedule "E." This shift in schedules represents a 20 percent reduction in costs.

• **Tax Reforms:** A number of tax reforms were passed in the 1997 legislative session, including:

1. **Creation of a State Earned Income Tax Credit** - Allows a taxpayer an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) equal to 10 percent of the EITC provided by the federal government.

2. **The Child Dependent Care Deduction** - Raised the deduction from \$600 to \$1,200 and allows for 425,000 families to take advantage of this deduction. The break provides an additional \$25 million in tax relief to families with dependent children.

3. **Title V Tax Relief** - A 40 percent credit for repair or replacement costs of failed septic systems. Capped at \$6,000 for the total credit. Not to exceed \$1,500 in any tax year. Unused credits are to carry over for three subsequent tax years.

4. **Tax Relief for Telecommunication Services**

-Excludes internet services from the definition of telecommunication services for the taxation purposes of such services. Extends the reporting date of the Special Commission on Telecommunications Taxation from September 1997 to December 1998 and sunsets the exclusion on July 1, 1999.

5. **Adjustments to Property Tax Exemptions for Veterans** - Took all Real Estate Exemptions for Veterans found in section 5, chapter 59 of the General Laws and increase them by \$75 each to adjust for inflation.

6. **Military Pensions** - Adds an exemption to the General Laws for retirement pay received from the U.S. government for a retiree of the uniformed services of the U.S., or their surviving spouse, regardless of whether the retiree contributed to the retirement system.

The Legislature in 1998 will continue to focus on tax reforms. Proposals that will come before the Legislature include a reduction in the state income tax from 5.95 percent to 5 percent, and a reduction in the investment income tax from 12 percent to 5.95 percent.

It is premature to speculate about or commit to a particular course of action regarding tax cuts. However, by April, the Legislature will have examined these issues and will propose specific and substantive tax cuts that are consistent with our economic responsibilities and sound tax policy.

Finally, the Legislature will explore a variety of proposals and ideas that are being formulated around worker training. The dynamic recovery of our state's economy has exposed a new challenge to our continued growth and prosperity. Simply put, the workforce of the state and the nation is lagging in educational competencies, training skills, and retraining opportunities. If we can solve this puzzle, Massachusetts and her residents will gain long-term economic advantages.

Again, I am reaffirming my commitment to the economic development in Western Massachusetts. Our communities' quality of life depends upon the choices the legislature makes.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you ... AAN!!!



Alexander's

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Fri. & Sat. 4:00 - 10:00

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Howard E. Tabor

Howard E. Tabor, 89, of 807 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, owner of Howard Tabor and Associates, Inc. in Wilbraham, died recently at Baystate Medical Center.

He was previously a plant manager for Swift & Co. and was a consultant for American Association of Industrial Management in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

He was born in Palmer and graduated from Palmer High School. He later attended the University of Chicago. He was a life member of the Elm-Belcher Lodge of Masons of Agawam.

His first wife, Marjorie (Smith) Tabor, died in 1966. He leaves his wife, Annabelle (Williamson) Mullett Tabor; a son, three stepsons, two daughters, a brother and a sister, 15 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was at Wilbraham United Church with burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield 01104.

Stephanie M. Carroll

Stephanie M. (Lazarz) Carroll, 85, formerly of Ludlow, died in an Agawam nursing home.

She was a seamstress for the former Joseph's Clothing Store and Whitley Tailors, both of Springfield.

Born in Southbridge, she lived in Ludlow for 39 years.

She was predeceased by her husband, Redvers Carroll.

She leaves nephews, a niece, and cousins.

The funeral was held at Ludlow Funeral Home, with the burial at Hillcrest Park Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 53 Bliss Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Karl O. Goehlert

Karl O. Goehlert, 72, of 17 Dartmouth Street, Agawam, died at home.

He was a former operation manager with First National Super Markets, now known as Edwards, retiring after 52 years in 1992.

Born and educated in Springfield, he lived in Agawam for 40 years and was a Navy veteran of World War II.

He was a member of the Polish-American Club of Agawam and coached girls' basketball for the Agawam Athletic Association.

He leaves his wife, the former Barbara J. Sliech; a son, Paul J. of Agawam; two daughters, Karol A. Stepanik of Feeding Hills and Sue-Ellen Sarnelli of Agawam; and five grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, followed by burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089, or to Hospice of Pioneer Valley, 50 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01102.

Bernard F. Sitek

Bernard F. Sitek, 73, of 44 Belvidere Avenue, Feeding Hills, a decorated World War II aerial gunner, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a 30-year letter carrier at the Liberty and Main Street Post Office.

Born in Springfield, he was a graduate of Cathedral High School, and a longtime resident of Feeding Hills.

He was an Army Air Forces veteran of World War II, and completed 30 missions over Europe.

He was a ball turret gunner on a B-17 heavy bomber of the 457th Bombardment Squadron, Eighth Air Force. He participated in the Normandy-Northern France, Ardennes, and Rhineland campaigns, and received the Air Medal with bronze and silver oak-leaf clusters, and a European theater ribbon with three stars.

He was a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church.

He leaves his wife, Elda Piangerelli; two brothers, Daniel of Holyoke and Francis of Chicopee; and nephews and nieces.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and the church, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brightside for Families and Children, 2112 Riverdale Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Debra Rochelle Whitmore-Jimenez

Debra Rochelle Whitmore-Jimenez, 37, of 89 Mapledell Street, Springfield, died at Mercy Hospital.

She was a nurse's aide at the Heritage Hall Nursing Home in Agawam.

Born in Hastings, Nebraska, she lived in the Chicopee area before moving to Springfield 14 years ago.

She was a graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School, and played on the Heritage Hall bowling team.

She leaves her husband, Angel Luis Jimenez; a son, Edwin Joseph Francis 2nd; a daughter, Alesscia Symone Jimenez, all of Springfield; a step-daughter, Elizabeth Jimenez of Cleveland, Ohio; her parents, Alvin E. Whitmore, Jr. of Chicopee and Barbara Emam of Windsor Locks, CT; a brother, Alvin E. 3rd of East Hartford, CT; a stepbrother, Scott Coleman of Chicopee; three sisters, Carolyn F. Whitmore of Chicopee, Natalie J. Hunt of Millis, and JoAnne Whitmore of Amherst; her stepmother, Lu C. Whitmore of Chicopee; her grandfather, Alvin E. Whitmore of Wisconsin; and a friend, Maybell Chambers.

The funeral was held at Henderson Funeral Home, with the burial in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 53 Bliss Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Charles E. Lenz

Charles E. Lenz, 71, of 53 Ondrick Drive, Chicopee, died at home.

He was a 20-year salesman for the former DePalma Motors of Agawam, and retired in 1988. He was also a 14-year employee of the James C. Haberman Insurance Agency.

Born in Jamaica Plain, Boston, he was a 17-year resident of Wilbraham, and lived in Chicopee from 1982.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, and a communicant of St. Patrick's Church.

He leaves his wife, Helen A. (Avlas) Lenz; two sons, George of Ludlow and Paul of Worcester; a daughter, Gale Ascoti of Ludlow; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the Tylunas Funeral Home and the church, with the burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Springfield.

Lena T. Hickey

Lena T. (Baschizore) Hickey, 81, of Tourigny Street, Springfield, died at home.

She was a 22-year line assembler at Buxton Leather Co. in Agawam, and retired in 1982.

A lifelong resident of Springfield, she was a communicant of Our Lady of Hope Church.

She was a member of the Hope Center and the Mayflower Line Dancers, and the Golden Agers.

Her husband, Robert A. Hickey, died in 1973.

She leaves a son, Robert J. of Chicopee; two daughters, Jean C. Hickey of Longmeadow and Rose Mary H. Stocks of Chicopee; a brother, Dino Barry of Springfield; three sisters, Aurelia Luchini and Jean McCarthy of Springfield, and Mary Moulton of Agawam; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Corridan Funeral Home of Chicopee and the church, with the burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pioneer Valley Hospice, 50 Maple Street, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

J. Myles Grise

J. Myles Grise, 70, of Castle Hill Road, Agawam, the 50-year owner of Grise Funeral Home in Chicopee, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He retired in 1974.

Born in Chicopee, he was a graduate of Cathedral High School in Springfield, and a 1949 graduate of the New Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in Boston.

He was a communicant of the Holy Name Church in Chicopee.

He was a corporator of Chicopee Savings Bank, a Patrick E. Bowe School building commissioner in Chicopee, a charter member of the city's Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce, and a former member of the Kiwanis Club.

He sat on the boards of the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association and the Chicopee Visiting Nurse Association. He belonged to Knights of Columbus Elder Council 69 and the Chimney Hill Owners Association of Wilmington, Vermont.

He leaves his wife of almost 50 years, Norma (Iola) Grise of Agawam; three sons, J. Mark of Woburn, and Richard D. and James E. of Chicopee; two brothers, William of East Springfield and John ("Jack") of Clearwater, Florida; a sister, Florence Burke of Springfield; six grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

The funeral was held at the funeral home, with the burial at Calvary Cemetery in Chicopee.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089, or the Pioneer Valley Hospice, 50 Maple Street, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01104-9058.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 9...

Nikki

Two years have passed without you here
but still we feel your presence near.
As Papa walks into the room he can see you
sitting there
Looking just like Mima with her same long
dark hair.
Mima sees you in the shining stars above
In her prayers she sends to you her love.
Danny and Kristina think about you all the
time
Missing you so much, still asking "Why?"
As for me you're in my thoughts every day
and every night
I imagine you in my arms so close and tight.
Until the day when once again we're together
In our shadows and our dreams you will be
forever.
The emptiness without you will never go
away
We love and miss you more than words can
say.

Love,

Mommy, Dan,
Kristina,
Mima, Papa,
Uncle Johnny,
Tawnie, & Cam



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OBITUARIES - from Page 8...

Irene B. Barree

Irene B. (Coderre) Barree, 67, of 37 Larchmont Street, Chicopee, a lifelong resident of that city, died at Holyoke Hospital.

She was a retired teacher's aide at the Willimansett Unit of the Valley Cap Day Care Centers. She retired in 1991.

She was a communicant of the Church of the Nativity and participated in many of its activities.

She was a member of the Willimansett Heights Improvement League.

She belonged to the Agawam Organ Club.

She leaves her husband, Joseph A. Barree; a son, Roland G., and a daughter, Charlene M. Barree, both of Chicopee.

The funeral was held at the Arthur J. Brunelle Funeral Home and in the church. Burial was in St. Rose's Cemetery, Aldenville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society of Western Massachusetts, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Joanne Condon

Joanne (Longley) Condon, 65, of Beekman Drive, Agawam, and formerly of Longmeadow, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She was born in Springfield, and lived in Longmeadow.

She was graduated from the former Classical High School in Springfield, and Green Mountain College in Vermont.

She attended the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow.

She was a past president of the Encore Players, and a docent at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts. She also managed the museum store.

She was a past chairwoman of the Agawam Cultural Council, and a volunteer at Wesson Women's Hospital (now Baystate Medical Center) in Springfield. She was named to "Who's Who of American Women" in 1995.

She leaves her husband, Paul Dorsey Condon; a daughter, Pamela Davis Condon of Pelham; four sons, Robert L. of Belchertown, Jeffrey E. of Stafford Springs, CT, Wade S. of Ware, and John W. of Hampden; a brother, Frank E. Longley of Lompoc, CA; and eight grandchildren.

Another son, Paul D. Jr., died in 1971.

The funeral was held at the church, and the burial was in Longmeadow Cemetery. Dickinson-Streater Funeral Home of Springfield was in charge of the arrangements.

Robert J. Knights

Robert J. Knights, 71, of 7 Pinnacle Drive, Adams, died at North Adams Regional Hospital.

He was a machinist and worked in Agawam and Springfield. He retired from Sterling Radiator Co. in Westfield in 1989.

Born in North Adams, he was educated in North Adams schools and attended Drury High School.

He lives in Springfield, West Springfield, and Westfield.

He served in the Navy during World War II aboard the USS St. Paul in the Pacific theater.

He leaves his wife, the former Marjorie P. Gallagher; a daughter, Paula Morin of Southwick; two brothers, Milford of North Adams and James of Santa Anna; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service at Bellevue Cemetery was scheduled for a later date. McBride Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Bertha H. Bernard

Bertha H. (Huckins) Bernard, 87, of Druids Lane, West Springfield, died in a local nursing home.

She was a nurse's aide at the Heritage Hall Nursing Home in Agawam.

She was born in Worcester, and lived in West Springfield for most of her life.

She attended the First United Methodist Church, and was a member of the Senior Center and the Grove Village Senior Club.

Her husband, Arthur Bernard, died in 1979.

She leaves two sons, Dwight Belleville of Westfield and David Belleville of Springfield; three daughters, Joanne DeMassini of Agawam, Lois Lackman of West Springfield, and Caroline Hitchcock of Agawam; a brother, Adam Jaeger of Windsor, CT; 24 grandchildren; 49 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Beverly Giordano, in 1991.

The funeral was held at West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with the burial in St. Thomas Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ronald McDonald House, 34 Chapin Terrace, Springfield, MA 01107.

Hearing At The State House To Discuss Controversial Special Education Legislation

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has announced a hearing Tuesday, January 20th in Gardner Auditorium at the State House to discuss the controversial filing of major legislation to overhaul Massachusetts' Special Education law.

The legislation, filed by Representative Lida Harkins after a Special Commission issued a comprehensive report on special education, would align Massachusetts with federal regulations and standards on what is an appropriate level of education.

The proposal would also end the requirement that school districts pay for parents who seek a second opinion on whether their child is learning or emotionally disabled.

"Massachusetts needs to take a long, hard look at the way it funds special education," Melconian said. "It is very important that we make sure all our children get a quality education. We need to

bring closer together the interests of those who advocate for special-ed and those who advocate for regular education."

The proposed legislation would appropriate \$24 million in additional funds to aid school districts in setting up efficient, innovative special education programs. The goal is to provide school districts with incentives to create good programs and collaboratives.

"I am open and eager to hear your suggestions on this issue," Melconian said. "There is a need to reform and improve the way special education is provided in Massachusetts. I appreciate your input."

Melconian invites anyone interested in this issue to attend the hearing in Boston. If anyone is unable to attend but would like to submit testimony, or meet with the Senator, please contact her district office at 786-6033.

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ZBA Grants Temporary Storage Permit For Betty's Old Towne House

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Last week, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) granted a temporary storage permit allowing Thomas Fredette to move and store the Betty's Old Towne House building while he seeks a zone change from Town Council to permanently locate the 166 year-old landmark on his Walnut Street property.

Getting the ZBA's permission to store the building is the first step in the plan to save the historic building from the wrecker's ball to clear the site for a Walgreen Pharmacy. Fredette, who owns Floral Concepts by Tom, and Dennis Librera, who manages the floral shop, want to move the building onto their neighborhood property and eventually use it as an artisan's gallery and coffee shop.

Because Fredette's property is zoned residential, they will need either a special use permit from the ZBA or a zoning change from Town Council in order to use the building for a new business (even though there is already an existing business on the property). Librera said they had been advised by the Mayor's Office to seek a zone change rather than a special use permit.

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson confirmed his advice to the two men, saying the best way to deal with the problem is to seek a zone change from Town Council so that the existing business and the new business will be on property that is presently zoned for business.

Currently, the flower shop is a non-conforming use of the property, Johnson said.

Zone Change The Best Approach

Acting ZBA Chairwoman Doreen Prouty agreed that a zone change would be the best approach to the problem, although the three-member board agreed that the two businessmen could apply for a special use permit if the Town Council does not grant them a zone change.

"Usually, we don't add (additional violations) to a non-conforming use," Mrs. Prouty said.

While several town councilors have expressed their desire to see the building preserved, not all agree that a zone change is the best route.

Council President Donald Rheault would rather see the two men apply for a special use permit from the ZBA, but he did not rule out eventually supporting a zone change request.

"It would be best for them to get a special use permit so that the town knows exactly what the building will be used for and we can hold them to

it. If we change the zone, a variety of businesses could be located there in the future," Rheault said. "Ultimately, I'm going to listen to both sides of the argument when it comes to the council."

Librera said he would immediately file the paperwork necessary to petition the council for a zone change and he said he had assurances from Suncor, Walgreen's parent company, that they would extend their February 1st demolition deadline while the process of getting a zone change goes forward.

Council Vice President Robert Magovern and Councilor Nancy Thompson both said they would support a zone change to preserve the building, but Councilor Gina Letellier hasn't decided if a zone change or the special use permit would be the proper mechanism to achieve a common goal. All three agreed on the importance of preserving a building that adds to the town's historic character and holds fond memories for people all over Western Mass. who have attended weddings and functions at the banquet house.

"I'm absolutely in favor of saving Betty's," Magovern said. "And I think it's a shame they have to go through so much red tape to do the town a favor."

Lifelong Agawam resident Erin Shepard, who attended the ZBA meeting to support Fredette and Librera, agreed. "I had my wedding reception there 20 years ago and I think it's a shame to see that beautiful building destroyed," Mrs. Shepard said. "As soon as I read it, I said the town has to help save it."

But, saving this piece of the town's history won't be cheap.

A Costly Move

Librera estimates it will cost between \$75,000 and \$90,000 to move the building; secure it for storage while the zoning issues are resolved; construct a permanent foundation for the structure and bring the building up to code, including handicap accessibility.

Suncor has pledged to contribute \$15,000 toward the cost and the two businessmen are now looking to the community to help ease the financial burden.

"We're doing this as a community effort," Fredette said. "We're doing it for the community."

Librera said they would be looking for community support in the form of monetary donations or in kind donations of material and services from local contractors.

"We're thinking of doing an honor plaque for the donations," Librera said.

Donations can be sent to Woronoco Savings Bank, P.O. Box 266, Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Checks should be made payable to Floral Concepts/Betty's.

Librera said they submitted five letters of support, including one from the Agawam Artists' Guild, to the ZBA to demonstrate the level of community support they've received.

In granting Fredette the temporary storage permit, the ZBA added a list of eight conditions that he must comply with in order for the permit to remain valid.

In addition to posting a \$15,000 bond to cover the cost of demolishing the building if the project can't be completed, Fredette must provide the board with a plan prepared by a licensed structural engineer detailing the project; present a site plan prepared by a land engineer, provide fencing around the building that is approved by the building inspector and the ZBA; and appeal to the Town Council for a zone change to Business B.

Also, before the storage permit expires in one year, the building must be set as a permanent structure, although it doesn't necessarily have to be operating as a business within the year.

ZBA member Debra Curtis praised the two men for their efforts in overcoming many obstacles in their quest to save the building.

"We are extremely appreciative of the effort you are making. We all agree the building needs to be preserved and the heritage continued," Mrs. Curtis said. "My colleagues have done a tremendous amount of homework to try to protect you, especially financially."

After working on the plan for more than a year, Librera vowed to complete the project, which he said has generated a lot of enthusiasm in the artists' community.

"It's an investment that is going to cost us major bucks," Librera said. "I will make this happen."

Adding another historical dimension to their story, Fredette said they've discovered during their research that his property was once owned by the same family that originally owned the house which was located on the site now occupied by Rocky's Hardware Store.

Fredette said he liked to think that building would be preserved on land that had been the original owner's apple orchard.

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Family Of Auto Accident Victim Files Civil Suit Against Agawam

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

A week before the District Attorney's Office released its findings in the investigation of a fatal automobile accident involving an Agawam police cruiser last July, the family of the young woman who was killed has served the town notice of their intent to sue the town in a civil action.

In a statement released last week, the District Attorney's Office found there was no criminal negligence involved in the crash.

On July 28, 1997, Carolyn O'Connor was killed in a fatal collision with a police cruiser driven by Agawam Police Officer Edward B. Connor. The accident occurred on Route 75 (Suffield Street) near the Southgate Shopping Plaza at around 11:00 p.m.

On January 7th, District Attorney William Bennett's office released a three paragraph statement stating, "After a review of all available information, it appears that there is insufficient evidence to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the proximate cause of the death was the result of criminal negligence."

The DA's report concludes that the police cruiser was traveling south at a high rate of speed on Suffield Street when the 1987 Audi being driven north on Suffield Street by Miss O'Connor attempted a left turn, resulting in a collision which occurred in the southbound lane.

Responding To An Alarm

The cruiser had been responding to an alarm and the flashing lights had been activated. Miss O'Connor, an accountant and Christian missionary who lived in Agawam, had been returning from a business trip and had possibly been trying to turn into the McDonald's Restaurant in the shopping plaza at the time of the collision.

On December 30th, Springfield Attorney Francis D. Dibble, Jr., sent a letter to Town Council presenting a claim on behalf of Miss O'Connor's estate for damages for conscious pain and suffering and a second claim on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. O'Connor for the wrongful death of their daughter.

Dibble said the DA's report would have no effect on his client's position because the standard used to determine civil liability is not the same as the standard for criminal negligence.

"We're approaching this from an entirely different point of view," Dibble said. "This is a very serious case involving the death of a young woman."

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson declined comment on the case except to say that Dibble's letter has been turned over to the town's insurance carrier.

"No criminal charges will be brought. There was no criminal negligence involved," Johnson,

who serves as the Police Commissioner, said.

Under Mass. General Law, a community's liability is limited to \$100,000 except for a violation of civil rights, Johnson said.

Potential For Civil Rights Violation

After a careful review of the circumstances of the case, Dibble said he believed the potential for a civil rights violation existed in the case.

Although he was uncertain if the case would go to trial or be settled out of court, Dibble said, "It's a case of obvious liability on the part of the town."

Declining comment on the details of the accident, Police Chief Robert D. Campbell said entering any discussion of the case while litigation looms on the horizon would be inappropriate.

However, Campbell did say that there is an extensive review of department policies and procedures whenever there is a fatal car accident, and that the DA's office always investigates fatal collisions.

"We called in the State Police to conduct the review because we wanted to be sure we had an impartial investigation," Campbell said.

Connor, a 10-year veteran of the APD, has been on medical leave since the accident occurred after sustaining hand and back injuries. He was expected to return to work this week, Campbell said.

No disciplinary action has been taken by the department in the wake of the investigation.

"AgawamOpoly" Is Currently Available At Rep. Keenan's Office

The AgawamOpoly board game is available for purchase at State Representative Daniel F. Keenan's district office at 342 Springfield Street. The AgawamOpoly game is \$20 and proceeds will benefit the Agawam Rotary Club.

The Agawam Rotary Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to community service in Agawam. For more information about the Agawam Rotary Club or the AgawamOpoly board game, contact Rotary President Tim Ayre.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1998, at 6:50 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of ANTHONY AND JANE FAZIO, who are seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a "Duplex Style Residential Structure" at the premises identified as: LOT No. 5, GARDEN STREET.

Ronald A. Hebert
Chairman

Published: January 15, 1998

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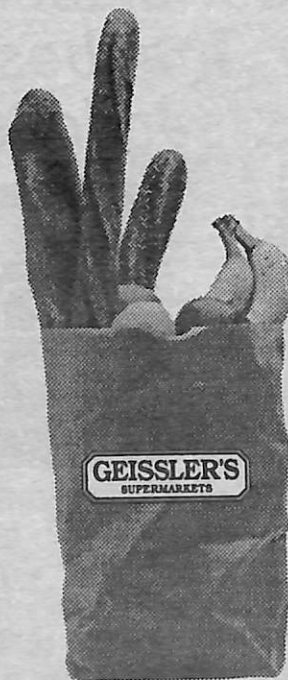
Donna Kennedy, Agawam Branch Manager

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Winning receipts can be stamped at the Courtesy Desk at Geissler's at which time you will be given your Gift Certificate.

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Applications Available For Fifth Citizens Police Academy

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Town residents or business owners interested in attending the Agawam Police Department's fifth Citizens Police Academy can pick up an application at the Police Station on Springfield Street.

The academy will be held on 10 consecutive Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Police Station's community room beginning February 24th and concluding on April 28th.

The class is limited to 15 participants and the application deadline is February 17th.

Safety Officer (Sergeant) Steven Draghetti said the department has gotten such positive response from everyone involved with the civilian academy, that the classes will be offered twice a year, in the fall and in the spring, as long as the public is interested.

Since the inception of the program, Draghetti said he has noticed improved morale on the part of the officers who teach the classes.

"It's given the officers a chance to meet with people and discuss their work in a positive way and they can see that the people do appreciate the work we do," Draghetti said.

An Eye-Opener For The Public

Besides giving the officers an opportunity to interact with people in situations not brought about by crime or crisis, the classes have been an eye-opener for the public in terms of debunking some of the myths about police arrest powers.

"People who think we can just arrest anybody for anything are surprised to learn about the limitations we are working under," Draghetti said.

For the police officers involved in presenting the classes, the civilian academy has been a morale booster as the public has come to realize that their Police Department is more accessible than they might have thought. "We're finding that the public didn't realize all the services we offer to the community," Draghetti said.

The 10-week course gives people in the community an opportunity to talk with the officers, exchange ideas, and open up the lines of communication with the police officers.

In addition to participating in classroom discussions, academy members will tour the Police Station and the Western Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Center on South Westfield Street.

The classes cover every aspect of police work, including the dispatch desk, the investigative process used at crime scenes, and topics like juvenile issues, use of force and officer safety, patrol procedures, gang related issues, and crime prevention strategies.

Program Began Two Years Ago

Since the program began two years ago, the curriculum has been refined using the critiques submitted by the 55 town residents who have gone through the program.

While different classes may show a particular interest in one aspect of police work, the number one activity enjoyed most by the classes has been the Hogan's Alley where class members participate in a simulated search for suspects in a police operation, Draghetti said.

"In Hogan's Alley, the class simulates a search for a suspect in a building and that really gets the adrenaline flowing," Draghetti said. Not to mention a healthy respect for the dangers facing police officers every time they respond to a call for help from the community.

The class is open to town residents and business owners; applicants must be over 18. All applicants will be subjected to a basic background check, Draghetti said.

Regular Council Meeting Agenda For Tuesday, January 20th

1. Citizen's Speak Time.
2. Roll Call.
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 12/15/97; Minutes - Organizational Meeting of 1/5/98.
5. Declaration from Council President.
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

(a) Resolutions

1. TR-97-49-A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Marie L. Kellogg, 77 Harvey Johnson Dr., Agawam, MA 01001 to the Whiting St. and Thomas Pyne Fund for a Three Year Term Expiring December 31, 2000 (Mayor).

7. Report of Council Committees

8. Elections

(a)

1. TE-98-5-Election of a regular member of the Board of Appeals to a term expiring January 1, 2000.

9. Public Hearings

(a)

1. PH-97-20-(TOR-97-13)-An Ordinance to Amend Ch. 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam by adding Art. XIV entitled Personal Wireless Services Facilities, Towers & Repeaters (Continue Public Hearing from 12/15/97).

10. Old Business

(a)

1. TO-97-60-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Agawam Bowl - 363 Walnut St. Ext.
2. TO-97-61-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Agawam Bowl - 363 Walnut St. Ext.
3. TO-97-62-Application for License for four (4) automatic amusement devices for Agawam Sportsman's Club, Inc. - 358 Corey St.
4. TO-97-63-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Bobby's Lounge, Inc. - 858 Suffield St.
5. TO-97-64-Application for License for four (4) automatic amusement devices for Buccaneer Lounge - 86 Maple St.
6. TO-97-65-Application for License for four (4) automatic amusement devices for Joey's Pub 147, Inc. - 827 Spfld. St.
7. TO-97-66-Application for License for two (2) automatic amusement devices for Polish American Club - 139 Southwick St.
8. TO-97-67-Application for License for ten (10) automatic amusement devices for The Rollaway, Inc. - 1756 Main St.
9. TO-97-68-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Scoreboard Bar & Restaurant, Inc. - 15 King St.
10. TO-97-69-Application for License for one (1) automatic amusement device for V.F.W. Post 1632 - 194 South St.
11. TO-97-70-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for West Spfld. Fish & Games, Inc. - 329 Garden St., F.H.
12. TO-97-71-Voucher List (\$54.00).

11. New Business

(a)

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Veterans' Corner... Cemetery Pre-Registration

by Ruth Bitzas
Veterans' Agent

We continue to receive inquiries daily as to the availability of pre-registration forms for the State Veterans' Cemetery to be located here in Town. We were advised in December that these forms would be mailed to Veterans' Agents soon after the first of the year.

Several days ago in speaking with Bob McKean from the Commissioners' office, I was advised that the forms will not be available until after July 1, 1998. I want to assure each and everyone in our District that as soon as I receive them, you will be advised through this column and if you have already given us your name, address, and telephone number, we will give you a call at that time.

Some have questioned why it will take over two years to complete construction of the cemetery. First of all, it takes time to obtain all of the necessary permits and clearances. For instance, the cemetery site has been on the State Historical Commission Map since 1942 as a possible site of American Indian artifacts.

As such, the Dept. of Veterans' Services has been required to fund an "Archaeological Dig," and has contracted with a company to complete the project, which will include about 176 test pits at a cost of approximately \$9,000. The DVS will then receive a final report on that issue.

The project needs to comply with the Wetlands Protection Act, along with the Dept. of Environmental Protection. We all need to keep in mind that the first State Veterans' Cemetery is actually a Federal, State, and Local project and, as such, is required to adhere to all pertinent requirements.

In other news, be advised that the new flag pole in front of the cemetery site is now illuminated, and the American Flag and POW-MIA flag may be flown on a 24-hour basis, thanks to the generosity of the Western Mass. Electric Company and the assistance of our building Maintenance Staff and Director, Tony Albino.

Generosity abounds for anything related to the State Veterans' Cemetery. Ed Squazza's generosity in donating the land needed has made him the role model for all of us. The beautiful groundbreaking ceremonies held on October 8, 1997 could never have been accomplished without the generosity of so many individuals and vendors.

I close with a reminder — the committee will be doing it all over again in 2000, and we'll be calling on you again for your ideas and support on behalf of Massachusetts veterans.

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Families

Holiday Happenings At Heritage Hall...



IN TOP PHOTO: The Senior Citizens' Band performed at Heritage Hall's South Building during the New Year's Eve party. IN PHOTO BELOW: Residents of Heritage Hall's North Building observed the celebration of Hanukkah. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



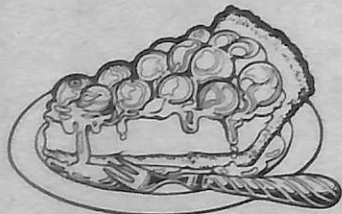
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Valentine's Day Luncheon Show Slated At Chez Josef

Join the Agawam Friendly Travelers on Thursday, February 12th, for a unique Valentine's Day luncheon show The Don Who? Show and The Dan Kane Singers at Chez Josef, the elegant, award-winning banquet facility in Agawam.

Night club singer and comedian Don Who will headline this unique Valentine celebration. Don has been entertaining audiences for over 30 years throughout the United States and Canada and has released five albums. A headliner at the Indian Head Resort, this singer, impersonator, and comedian has become one of the top draws in New England.

Steve Davis, music critic of *Variety* magazine, wrote this about Don: "His vocal power and style are electrifying, his rapport with the audience is warm and sincere, his wit and humor made me laugh 'til it hurt. I'd say it's a must for everyone to see The Don Who? Show!"

The luncheon show at Chez Josef will open with The Dan Kane Singers, a talented group specializing in Broadway music, original shows, and concerts. Having entertained audiences all over western Massachusetts for the past 25 years, The Dan Kane Singers have developed a following. Come and hear what they're all about; they're real crowd-pleasers!

The luncheon menu will include an appetizer, salad, potato, vegetable, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee/tea (also decaf), and a glass of wine with dinner. The entree will be one of the following choices: roast beef au jus, stuffed filet of sole, or chicken a l'orange.

The cost is \$30 per person, with transportation "on your own." For reservations and/or more information, call Nellie Mathias at 786-9093.

Agawam Lioness Board Meeting Slated For January 20th

A reminder to Lioness members: the day is not the usual one for the next Board meeting.

On Tuesday, January 20th, the meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Agawam Police Station.

The time has not been changed; it will be at 7:00 p.m.

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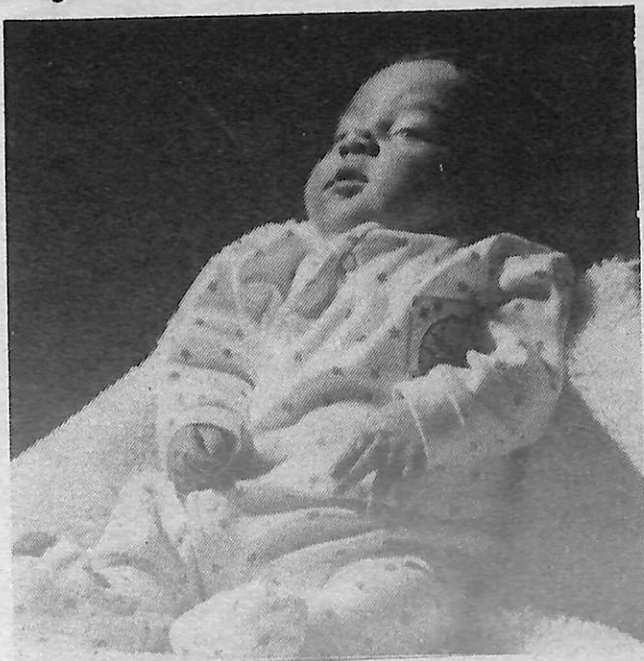
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TYLER DOUGLAS PIRNIE

Pirnie Family Announces Birth Of Son, Tyler Douglas

PFC. Shawn D. and Meredith Pirnie proudly announce the birth of their son, Tyler Douglas, born November 20th at Reynolds Army Hospital, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Tyler weighed 11 pounds, 1.4 ounces, and was 21¾ inches long.

He was welcomed for a Christmas visit by his sister, Kaila Pirnie, paternal grandparents Paul and Gail Pirnie of Feeding Hills, and maternal grandparents Tony and Barbara Gonsalves of Longmeadow, as well as many friends and relatives.

*You turn our pages
every week for the
hometown news!*

Brightside's "Angel Campaign" Raises A Record \$90,000

The 13th Annual Brightside for Families and Children Angel Campaign, which concluded December 24th, raised a record \$90,000, breaking the previous year's record by \$10,000. The campaign kicked off on November 21st and ran for four-and-a-half weeks.

Through the sale of angel ornaments and other items, Brightside raises money to fund a wide range of programs and services for families and children across the area. Over the course of the campaign, more than 1,000 volunteers from the community staffed booths at the Holyoke, Eastfield, Fairfield, and Hampshire malls, along with Enfield Square, Tower Square, Wal-mart in Ware, O'Connell Convenience Plus Stores, and area churches.

"The effort put in by our volunteers was truly exceptional," said Campaign Chair Julie Callahan, manager of Palmer Paving Company. "Without their dedication and the incredible support we get each year from the community and local businesses, we would not have been able to reach our goal."

Bell Atlantic (formerly NYNEX) was the campaign's prime sponsor for the third consecutive year. O'Connell Oil Associates was a major sponsor, and was joined in supporting the fundraising effort by two dozen other local companies. Among them was LEGO Systems, Inc. of Enfield, CT, which donated special holiday packages of LEGO bricks for sale at the angel booths. Local media sponsors were WGGB TV-40 and WMAS FM-94.7.

Brightside is a multi-program behavioral health and child welfare agency, serving more than 5,000 families each year. Brightside is part of Sisters of Providence Behavioral HealthCare, providing the most comprehensive range of behavioral health services to residents of Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut.

Those programs include inpatient psychiatric services; acute, residential, and outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment; and complete adoption services.



ZACHARY DAVID FLOREK

Tanya Rydell And Jeff Florek Announce Birth Of Son, Zachary

Tanya Rydell of Agawam and Jeff Florek of Holyoke announce the birth of their son, Zachary David Florek, who was born on December 15, 1997 at Baystate Medical Center.

He weighed eight pounds, 5½ ounces, and was 20½ inches long.

The proud grandparents are Bonnie & Ken Rydell of Agawam and Deborah & John Florek of Holyoke.

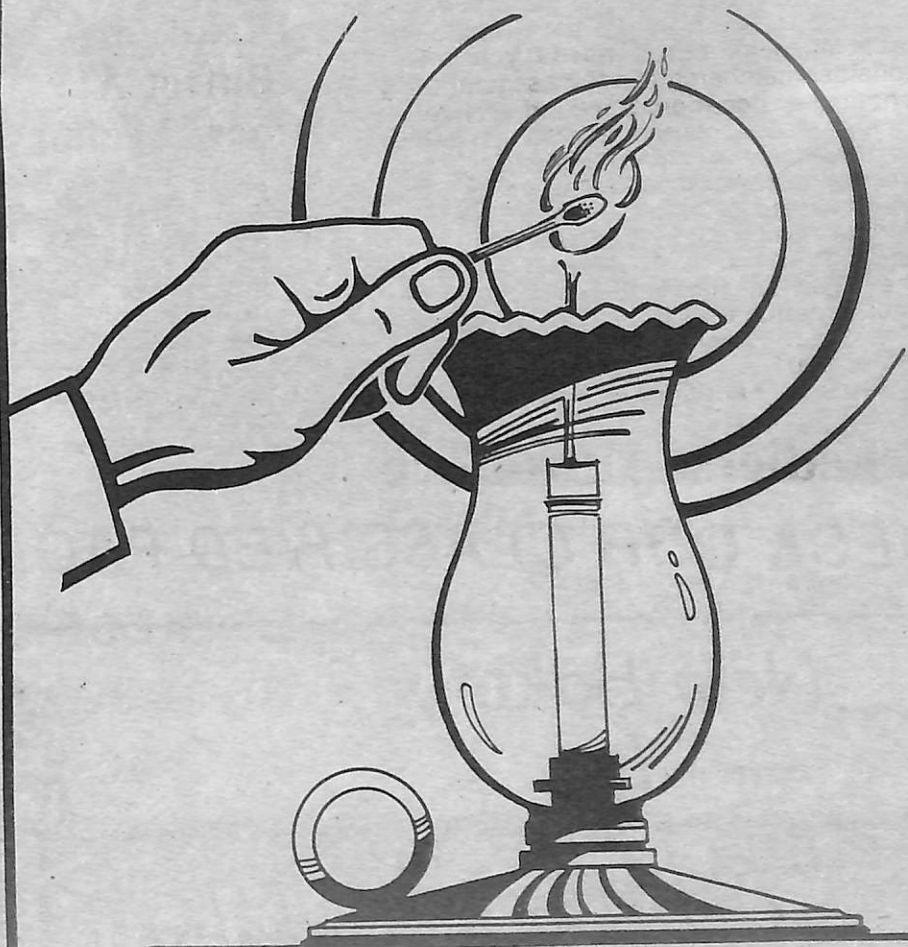
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Psalm 18:28

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REVEREND LEN COWAN

Local Toastmasters Hold "Hat Night"

"Hats off" to the Agawam/Westside Toastmasters! The local communication and leadership club recently held a special "Hat Night" and members brought in and talked about a hat of their choice.

Hats of all sizes, shapes, and colors took center stage, from sports caps to fencing helmets to Mexican sombreros. As members discussed them, the stories behind the hats proved to be as varied and colorful as the hats themselves.

"This event gave members yet another opportunity to practice their communication skills in a fun and informal manner," said Mike Margiotta, club president. "Members showed what a creative, enthusiastic bunch they are," he said. The event was the first in a series of "Theme Nights" planned for club members in the upcoming year.

The Agawam/Westside Toastmasters Club is a member of Toastmasters International, a worldwide organization which seeks to help member improve their communication and leadership skills.

New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact vice-president of membership, Jack Russell at (413) 567-8505, or Mike Margiotta at (413) 789-4008.

Agawam Historical Assoc. Seeks Donations

Despite Agawam's rich and varied history, there has never been a museum in town to house and protect its historical treasures. Many Agawam families have held historic artifacts for generations waiting for such a time.

With the opening of the new Fire Department Headquarters on Main Street, the old fire house on Elm Street has been secured for use as a town historical museum. After serving the town since 1918, the building must be renovated and adapted to its new use.

The Agawam Historical Association is making great progress in its efforts to transform the Elm Street Fire Station into the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, but it needs your help! Please consider membership in the association, a direct donation, or donation of in-kind service.

The Historical Association is also accepting donations of artifacts for cataloging and storage. If you have a piece of Agawam's history which you would like to donate to the Museum, please contact Historical Association Archivist Ann Bradford at 786-6835.

Join the Agawam Historical Association or send in your donation today! Please mail it to the Agawam Historical Association, P.O. Box 552, Agawam, MA 01001.

Thank you for your support!

The Fediers Announce Birth Of Son, Michael

Jim and MaryAnn Fedier of Agawam proudly announce the birth of their first son, Michael James, on Sunday, January 4th. He weighed seven pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long.

The proud grandparents are John and Theresa Fedier of West Springfield and Ernest and Ann Ghidoni of South Yarmouth.

Baby Mikey was happily welcomed home by his two big sisters, Jillian and Melinda.



MEMBERS OF THE Agawam/West Springfield Toastmasters celebrate "Hat Night" at Country Estates of Agawam: David Henderson, Jim McDougal, Mark Proulx, Maura Lessard, Richard Januska, Marc Longtin, and Mike Margiotta. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Free Group Class & Dance Party On Mondays At American Academy Of Ballroom Dance

The American Academy of Ballroom Dance, 33 Russo Circle, Agawam, will offer a **free** group class and dance party every Monday night in January and February.

The group class will be held from 8:15-9:00 p.m., followed by social dance from 9:00-10:00 p.m. There is no admission fee and light snacks and beverages will be served. Come with or without a partner.

Every Friday night through the end of February, and group class from 8:15-9:00 p.m. followed by a

dance party from 9:00 p.m.-12:00 midnight will be offered for a \$10 admission price.

Light buffet and beverages will be served. Come with or without a partner.

Starting in February, a Sunday afternoon tea dance will be held every second and fourth Sunday from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Admission is \$10 and includes a light buffet and beverages.

For more information, call 786-5125.

Breakfast Buffet At Amer. Legion

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 185 will hold a breakfast buffet on Sunday, January 18th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at American Legion Post 185, located at 478 Springfield Street, Agawam.

The menu will consist of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, coffee, and orange juice.

The price will be \$4.50 for adults and \$2.25 for children under 10 years of age.

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Shriners At Heritage Hall



THE SPRINGFIELD SHRINERS made a stop at Heritage Hall Nursing Home on New Year's Eve to entertain the residents of the North Building. IN TOP PHOTO, Kathy Newman watches as "Magic Al" dazzles the gathering with his card tricks; in photo below, the wildly popular Shriners' clowns, Klum-Z and Scubie, do a few tricks with their balloons. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



NO ONE covers all the hometown news like us!

Tech Class Of '58 & '59 Seeking Classmates

Reunion committee members for the Class of 1958 and the Class of 1959 from Technical High School in Springfield, MA are trying to locate classmates.

If you have had a change of name or address over the last 15 years or know of a class member who has changed their address, please contact Diana (Carlson) Peterson, Class of 1958, at 525-3408 or Joanne (Morrisino) Impoco, Class of 1959, at 525-7065.

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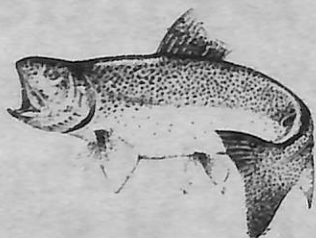
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Boneless Pork Roast (Cut From Loin Or Rib End)	\$1.99 Lb.
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5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
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10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Grade "A" Bone-In Chicken Breast	
Whole	\$1.19 Lb.
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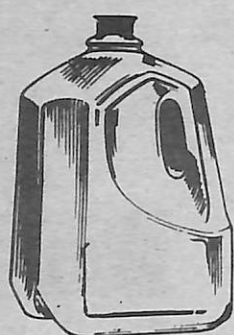


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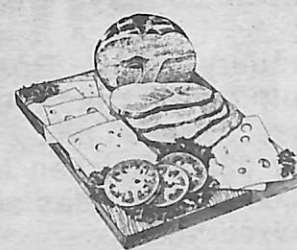
Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.19
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Friendly Ice Cream (½ Gallon)	2 For \$5.00

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Russer Low Salt Ham	\$3.49 Lb.
Hudson Turkey Pastrami	\$1.99 Lb.
Store Made Rare Roast Beef	\$4.99 Lb.
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Jr. Women's Club Install New Officers For 1998 Club Year

The annual Installation of Officers of the Agawam Junior Women's Club was held on Friday, January 9, 1998 at Ferruccio's Banquet House in Agawam.

The officers for the 1998 calendar year are as follows: Ann Woodard (President); Cindy Sanford-Taylor (First Vice President); Laura Paul (Second Vice President); Stephanie Bertagnolli (Treasurer); Mary O'Connell (Recording Secretary); Eva Jack (Corresponding Secretary).

The Directors for 1998 are as follows: Dee Adams, Betty Vershon, Laurie Snow, Ways & Means; Abbe McLane, Newsletter; Paula Macaulay, Publicity.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club wishes to extend an open invitation to anyone interested in joining its organization. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Captain Charles Leonard House on Main Street in Agawam. Please join in at the next meeting, which will take place on January 19th at 7:30 p.m.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.



NEW OFFICERS FOR THE AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB, from left - Laura Paul, 2nd vice-president; Stephanie Bertagnolli, treasurer; Ann Woodard, president; Cindy Sanford Taylor, 1st vice-president; Eva Jack, corresponding secretary; and Mary O'Connell, recording secretary. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, January 19th: Senior Center closed (Mather Luther King, Jr. Day).

Tuesday, January 20th: Stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, corn, rye bread, fresh orange.

Wednesday, January 21st: Roast turkey, stuffing with gravy, butternut squash, cranberry sauce, peach pie.

Thursday, January 22nd: Chicken leg (Shake & Bake), baked potato, peas and onions, rye bread, mixed fruit.

Friday, January 23rd: Vegetable lasagna, grape juice, tossed salad, cherry delight, pudding.

Bousquets Welcome Second Child, Kailey Elizabeth

On January 6, 1998, Kailey Elizabeth was born to Scott and Kathy Bousquet of Windsor, CT. Kailey weighed eight pounds, two ounces. She was also welcomed home by her three year-old big brother, Bryan.

The proud grandparents are Ann & Francis Dillon of Windsor, and Don & Theda-Rae Bousquet of Agawam. The proud great-grandmothers are Constance Urrico of Windsor and Iris Johnson of Agawam.



NEW DIRECTORS of the Agawam Junior Women's Club, from left - Liz Taylor, Education; Sue Godfrey, International; Diane Graveline, Arts; Joyce Granger, Conservation; Sue Hoague, Public Affairs; Theresa Conklin, Home Life; and Rose Sharpe, Education. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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New Jr. Women's Club Directors Named



SUE COUNYER and RAYMOND MILLER recently spoke to the Agawam Women's Club about AIDS Education.



THE AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB recently elected new directors at the Annual Installation Banquet on Friday, January 9th. From left - Abbe McLane, Newsletter; Paula MacCaulay, Publicity; and Dee Adams, Laurie Snow, and Betty Vershon, Ways and Means. RELATED STORY AND PHOTOS ON PREVIOUS PAGE. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Women's Club Hears Program On AIDS Education

The Agawam Women's Club recently welcomed as their guest speakers for the evening Sue Counyer of the Visiting Nurses Association and Raymond Miller for the Marc A. Callahan Memorial Fund Benefit.

Sue spoke in-depth on every phase possible about AIDS and what we can do as responsible community members to educate, protect, and help others as well as ourselves concerning this disease.

Raymond informed members and guests that evening of a fundraiser (now in its seventh year) which he co-chairs to benefit the Visiting Nurses Association locally with AIDS patients and their families.

The Agawam Women's Club is helping sponsor the event this year, which will be held on Valentine's Day (Saturday, February 14th) at the Ramada Sovereign Inn on Riverdale Street, West Springfield. For tickets and further information, call 786-3091.

The Agawam Women's Club meets every fourth Monday at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise specified). Guests and prospective new members are always welcome. Please call 786-1473 or 786-3091.

We are a community service-oriented organization.

Fleet Reserve Assoc. To Meet January 20th

The Pioneer Valley Fleet Reserve Association (Branch 246 and Unit 246 Ladies' Auxiliary) will meet on Tuesday, January 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westover Club, Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee.

Branch and Ladies' Auxiliary meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. Membership is open to men and women who have served in the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard (both active and retired).

For more information about the F.R.A. Branch 246 and L.A.F.R.A. Unit 246, come to their meetings or call (413) 568-8174. Members at-large are also welcome.

Operation Friendship Planning Bottle Drive For Jan. 26th-31st

Operation Friendship, a non-profit youth oriented organization, will be holding a can/bottle drive to support this summer's plans. If you can help us out, please save your bottles and cans and we will be happy to pick them up the week of January 26th-31st.

For pick-ups in Feeding Hills, please call 786-0195 or 789-3388. In Agawam, call 786-7898 or 789-2410. Thank you for your support.

Watch for our future events: Oldies Dance, January 17th; Roast Beef Dinner, February 28th; Mystery Dinner, March 28th and April 4th.

Women's Healthcare Associates

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(Seated, left to right) Ethel Barnoon, MD; Oded Rencus, MD; Ruth Pryor, MD; (standing, left to right) Deborah Moore, CNM; Tina Johnson-Guidry, CNM; Robert Olney, MD; Brenda Maloney, CNM; Lisa D'Amato, CNM; and Ilan Bornstein, MD.

Oded Rencus, MD

Ethel Barnoon, MD

Robert J. Olney, MD

Ruth Pryor, MD

Brenda Maloney, CNM

Deborah Moore, CNM

247-249 Exchange Street,
Chicopee (413) 784-9444

Ilan Bornstein, MD

Lisa D'Amato, CNM

Tina Johnson-Guidry, CNM

294 North Main Street,
East Longmeadow (413) 525-4500



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Santa Was On The Prowl In Agawam



STEPHANIE NORMAN was Santa's helper at the Polish American Club's Annual Kids' Christmas Party held last month in the club's pavillion. Looking on was Douglas Labun. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



RACHEL STEPHENS AND PEARL T. QUAYLE were Santa's "M & M" helpers at M & M Restaurant in the Twin Silos Complex on Suffield Street a few days before Christmas. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AIRMAN JEFFREY M. RIVERS

Airman Jeffrey Rivers Graduates Basic From Lackland AFB

Air Force Airman Jeffrey M. Rivers has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six-weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs, and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Rivers is the son of Catherine Plourde of 66 McKinley St., and William H. Rivers of 426 North Westfield St., both of Feeding Hills.

Check our classified pages every week

Oriental Flowers Subject Of Program At Senior Center

Elaine M. Smith will be presenting a program on Ikebana, the art of Oriental flower arranging, on Wednesday, January 21st, at the Agawam Senior Center beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Her program will feature a slide presentation from shows that she photographed while living in the Orient, and a basic demonstration from the Sogetsu school of design.

Elaine gives a demonstration one Wednesday each month at the Senior Center. Call 786-3091 for further information.

If you wish to be a new subscriber, call us today, 786-7747

Ag. Women's Club Schedules Meeting For Monday, January 26th

The Agawam Women's Club will meet on January 26th at 7:30 p.m. in the Captain Leonard House, 663 Main Street.

The evening's program will be a makeup demonstration entitled, "Come See A New You," with bingo and prizes presented by Sharon Grabowski.

Mrs. Ralph Webster will read the invocation and Mrs. Charles Kistner is in charge of hospitality.

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month unless otherwise indicated. Guests and new members are always welcome.

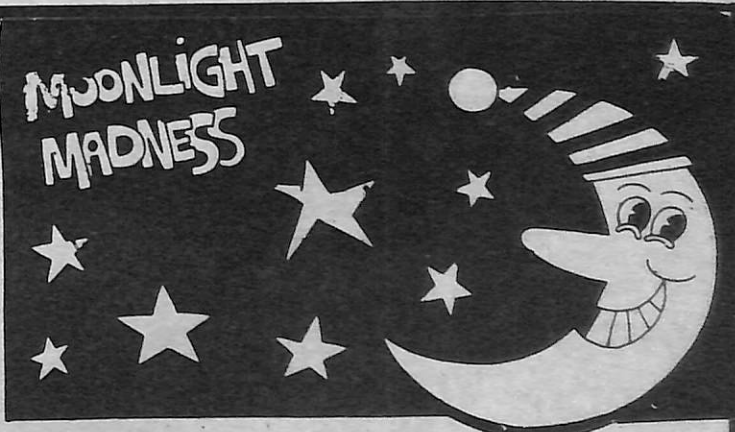
For further information, call 786-1473 or 786-3091.

Best local news...

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Church News Valley Community Enters 1998 With Renewed Excitement

Valley Community Church has excitedly jumped into 1998 with renewed excitement and energy in serving God. On January 4th, Pastor Steve challenged the congregation to dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ with an Altar Call.

And the congregation responded in full force with tears of joy and profound commitment. During the second week of January, Pastor Steve followed up with a message of baptism, explaining the important difference between baptism as a life committed to Jesus Christ, to that of an infant dedication. The congregation has again been challenged!

On Sunday, January 18th, Pastor Steve's message will be taken from the gospel of John 2:1-11. He will tell us how Jesus filled the empty vessels and changed the water into wine during the wedding feast. He will then explain just what that represents to us today and what we have to do about it.

The children of the church will depart to Dunn Hall at 10:00 a.m. for Children's Church. There, they will hear the same message and the same challenge as the adults, but worded in a way that they can understand and apply to their lives.

Coffee and Fellowship begins at 10:30 a.m. in Dunn Hall. This Sunday, we will hold our monthly Birthday Party to celebrate all those in our congregation who are having birthdays and anniversaries this month. We especially welcome our visitors to join in this casual time of friendship.

Church school begins at 11:00 a.m. for all ages, from kindergarten to adults. Nursery care is available to all parents of pre-school age children.

Just a reminder to all Senior Choir members: Senior Choir has been changed to Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m.

Junior Choir will meet on Wednesday, January 21st at 6:15 p.m. This week will be a special treat for these young people. In appreciation of their faithful attendance and diligent effort throughout the year, Margie Secora, Director, will be treating these children by taking them out to supper. Regular choir rehearsals will resume next week.

On Thursday, January 22nd, Cub Scout Troop 78, Den 3 will meet in Dunn Hall. These Webelos are working hard to earn their Artist pin and their works of art are a wonderful exhibit of their creativity.

Church members packed into Dunn Hall after Worship on Sunday, January 11th to attend the Annual Church Meeting. The goals, accomplishments, and financial condition of 1997 were discussed and enthusiastically praised by all that attended. New board members were voted into office and the excitement in the air was contagious as many new plans for the upcoming year were married. God's power is alive in this church and the people are responding!

Valley Community Church is an interdenominational church and warmly invites anyone who is searching for a church home to attend Worship with us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. You will be glad you did, and we will be glad to have you. The church is located "high on a hilltop" at 152 South Westfield St.

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Family Pageant At Agawam Congregational



A CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY PAGEANT was held at the Agawam Congregational Church. The event featured joyous music and the story about the birth of Baby Jesus. Advertiser

News photo by Jack Devine.

St. David's Church Planning Spaghetti Supper For Monday, Feb. 2nd

St. David's Church is planning a Spaghetti Supper on Monday, February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. The menu includes spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, bread, garden salad, bread pudding, coffee, tea, and fruit drink.

Reservations are recommended but not required. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for

children under 12. They are available in advance at St. David's before and after all services or by calling 786-6133.

St. David's is planning a dinner for the first Monday of each month. Watch for next month's dinner; on the menu will be corned beef and cabbage.

For all the hometown news, you turn our pages each and every week ... AAN!!!

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Church News - continued...

Capital Fund Campaign At Ag. Congo



THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH will begin its Capital Fund Campaign on Sunday, January 18th. To be introduced at the Worship Service will be (standing), Pat & Ray Harwick of Harwick & Associates, Inc., Rev. Curt Fuller, Dean Brust, and Helen Robbins, executive committee. Front row - Betty Fogg, Steve Tapply, Andy Pedersen, and Charles Kistner, executive committee. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Rev. Richard Barnes Returns To Pulpit On Sunday, Jan. 18th At First Baptist Church

Pastor Richard Barnes returns to the pulpit this Sunday, January 18th at First Baptist Church after a three-week vacation in Puerto Rico with his family.

Assisting him in the morning worship service will be Maria Losito, who will lead the Responsive Reading, and greeters for the morning will be Joan, Jessica, and Alison Woods, and Joyce, Danny, and Cori Geiger.

Coffee and conversation will follow worship, with classes available to all ages until 11:45 a.m. Nursery care is always available.

On our calendar this week:

Monday, January 19th: 7:30 p.m., Social Action Committee
Tuesday, January 20th: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 6:30 p.m., Mr. & Mrs. Club Dinner
Wednesday, January 21st: 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:30 p.m., Search Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 22nd: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

Coming up:

On Monday, February 2nd at 7:30 p.m., Nicole Lussier, Director of the Teen Living Program of the Open Pantry Ministries, will be the guest

speaker at a special meeting sponsored jointly by the Amicitia Circle and the Missions Committee.

Ms. Lussier will present information on what services this agency provides to area teens, and how we can help. All members and friends of the church are invited to this meeting.

In further support of this Teen Living Program, on January 25th, the Junior Youth Group will be participating with thousands of other youth groups and congregations around the U.S. and Canada in THE SUPER BOWL.

People will be encouraged, as they leave the sanctuary, to give at least \$1. Members of the Youth Group will be at the back of the sanctuary with large soup kettles to receive donations. As you prepare to support your favorite team in the Super Bowl, please also prepare to support our youth and our missions to others through THE SOUPER BOWL.

"Bring Back the Joy," a spiritual seminar for women, will be held on February 6th and 7th in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Arrangements are being made now for a group to attend from this area.

For last minute reservations, call Sharon Grabowski, (860) 668-0450 NOW!!

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, January 18th, is the Second Sunday after Epiphany. Worship continues at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

The kindergarten through third grade church school classes will be leading and participating in this week's service. The Sermon given by Rev. Fuller will be "Dreams & Gifts," taken from Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Neil Ellsworth will give the Children's Message.

This Sunday, we will begin our Capital Fund Campaign. The United Church Ministers, the Reverends Pat & Ray Harwick of Harwick & Harwick Associates, Inc., will be introduced, along with the Executive Committee and workers, at the Worship Service.

A Resource Meeting for the Capital Fund Campaign will be this Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Upcoming events for the Capital Fund Campaign are as follows: Campaign Banquet, Sunday, February 1st, at 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, February 22nd, Report and Celebration Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 p.m.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is toilet paper.

Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

The Loaves & Fishes Program will be Monday, January 19th. Anyone wishing to serve at the kitchen in Springfield can meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. They will return to the church by 6:00 p.m.

All you Super Bowl Sunday fans, take note! The Junior & Senior High Youth Groups are sponsoring a special Super Bowl Sunday cold-cut grinder fundraiser.

The grinders are \$4 each. Call the church office today and order yours!

The Catering Committee is planning a Yankee Pot Roast Dinner on Saturday, February 21st, at 5:30 p.m. Mark your calendars today!

Mark your calendars — February 14th is the date for our church adult Valentine's Day Party. Chuck Malloy, of Music Celebration, will be the D.J. for the party. Join us for the music, refreshments, contests, door prizes, raffles, and more!

Bring a friend. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.

For more information concerning programs, events, or dinners, call the church office at 786-7111.

Best local news...

Prayer & Song On Jan. 18th At Monastery

The next monthly hour of prayer and song for the families of the world will be held at the Dominican Nuns' Monastery Chapel, 1430 Riverdale Street, West Springfield, on Sunday, January 18th, at 4:00 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

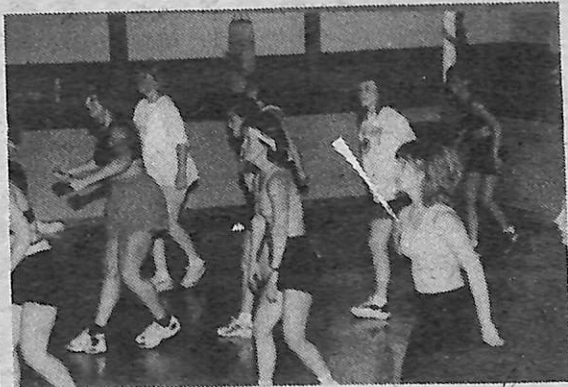
The service will include the singing of evening prayer, the recitation of the Rosary, and Benediction.

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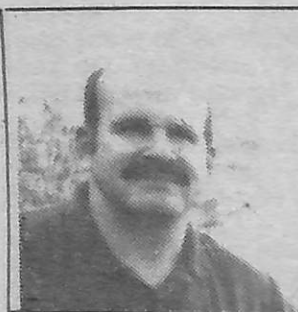
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Church News - continued...



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
 Pastor of the Church
 of the Apostles,
 Suffield, CT
 (860) 668-4444 or
 (413) 786-8735

People Make Mistakes About God...

Back when I was in college, I turned my attention to a lovely young lady on campus. I don't recall now how I actually managed to meet her, but I did. As people are prone to do, I had thought about her frequently, and imagined how happy I would be if she were to become my girlfriend.

After several weeks of "chance" meetings, deliberately sought out on my part, I finally mustered the courage to ask her out on a date. She accepted, and I took her to see "Gone With The Wind."

The young lady I describe was lovely in every way. She had a delightful personality and was very pretty. But I was disappointed. How could that be? The reason I wound up disappointed with the lady of my dreams was that she was just that, a person I had dreamed about. I had imagined all sorts of things about her which did not happen to be true.

Sometimes, people make similar mistakes about God. They might have some level of interest in Him, but rather than actually getting to know Him, they ascribe to Him all sorts of traits which do not happen to be true.

For example, have you ever heard that the God of the Old Testament is harsh and severe, a God of terror? He is portrayed that way by many. They go on to suggest that the God of Jesus and the New Testament is the loving and kind one.

Such thinking completely contradicts the Bible, which says that **Jesus Christ is the exact imprint of God's very being**. There is no daylight between God and Jesus.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

For Zion's sake, I will not keep silent, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

After Jesus read the first part of this passage in a synagogue in Nazareth, He said, **"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

These are hardly harsh, terrifying, or "fighting words." These are words of hope, declarations of love. They are delivered by the prophet Isaiah, speaking in God's name.

The message is for people who either are in trouble, or do not deserve God's blessing because they have caused trouble, or both. That pretty much includes virtually all people.

None of us is beyond the reach of God's grace, nor outside the scope of His love and His interest. As Max Lucado once put it, "If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it."

God has a plan for each of our lives, and it is a good plan. Some people might be surprised to discover that God's plan for their lives is not all that different from their own. The word "vindication," mentioned above, means "refined" or "purified."

God wants to work in our lives to purify us from all the things we are, or at least should be, embarrassed about. He wants to make us into the kind of people that He, as well as we, can be proud of.

"Ordinary Time" Returns; St. John's Lists Upcoming Activities For Next Few Weeks

With the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord this past Sunday, we bring to a close this Christmas Season at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Next Sunday, we return to Ordinary Time, that is, the time of the year outside of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, usually 34 weeks. The vestments next weekend will return to GREEN, a symbol of HOPE as we continue to await the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus.

Agawam we thank all who gave of themselves to make this Christmas Season so beautiful: those who cleaned and those who decorated the Church; the musicians and choirs; those who served and those who ministered the Word and Sacrament; those who worked with the children

for the Pageant and the children who took the time to celebrate the Pageant; and to the whole parish family who so joyfully celebrated the Birthday of the Lord. May we all never be the same again.

Proclaiming the Word of God is a special ministry in the Church. We have had an excellent roster of Lectors over the years, but their ranks are thinning and we need to add to the list. (We have been able to schedule people for one Mass a month so far.)

SEE ST. JOHN'S - Page 24...

News & Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m. The lectionary readings for January 18th, the second Sunday after Epiphany, will be Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, and John 2:1-11.

Rev. Donaldson will give a sermon entitled "Renewal." The Lector will be Matt Granger.

Children should attend worship with their parents, leaving at a designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

Friday, January 16th, is "Bring a Friend Movie Night." This event, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, will begin here at the church at 7:00 p.m.

Ample parking and free admission. How can you pass up such a deal!?!?

Don't forget to support Operation Friendship by attending their oldies dance at the Polish American Club on Saturday, January 17th. If you have a question, call Bill Rose - the man who knows (786-0195).

The deadline to turn annual reports into the office is Monday, January 19th. Early submissions have been greatly appreciated.

New member classes will continue for the next two Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

On the calendar:
Thursday, January 15th: Newsletter deadline; 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., New member class; 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Friday, January 16th: 7:00 p.m., CE Movie night.
Saturday, January 17th: OF Oldies Dance at Polish American Club.

Sunday, January 18th: 10:00 a.m., Worship; 2:00 p.m., Cub Scout meeting.

Monday, January 19th: Annual reports due; 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Cub Scouts.

Tuesday, January 20th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Deacons.

Wednesday, January 21st: 6:30 p.m., Music Committee; 7:00 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Christian Ed Committee.

Thursday, January 22nd: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., New member class; 7:00 p.m., A.A.

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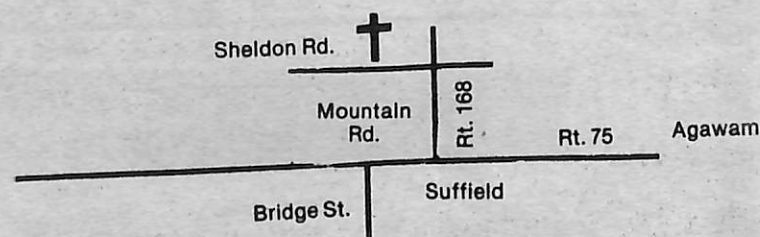
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Reverend Peter Monahan
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Church News - continued...

Boar's Head Festival At Valley Community Greeted With Trumpets

The sound of trumpets heralded the entrance of a medieval spectacle recently at the Valley Community Church in Feeding Hills. Resplendent in costumes of the period, royal personages and peasant folk alike paraded down the center aisle to take their place before the Sanctuary.

Accompanied by an ensemble of musicians, which included Heather Secora (bassoon), Sue Morgan (cello), Marcy Secora (flute and piano), Marlene Allen (percussion and vocals), Margie Secora (guitar and vocals), and Pastor Stephen Dennehy (fiddle and recorder), the 42 member celebrants led the congregation in traditional Christmas carols and the retelling of the Three Kings' visit to the Christ Child.

Tiffany Blackman held the Bethlehem star high above the pews as she led Mary (Sheila McCarl) and Joseph (Dale McCarl) to the holy manger. Sixth month-old Savannah, as the baby Jesus, was entranced with the various animals and the people that entered into the nativity scene (particularly the four elegant llamas led by the Fugua family).

The shepherds (Nick and Doug Duquette, Steve McCarl, Sam Pohner, and Rick Stacy with daughter Brittany [lamb]) were the first to arrive, followed by the glittering, bejeweled Kings and their pages: John and Gratton Rider, Lyle and Tyler Pearsons, and Scott Belisle with Glen Hill.

Accompanied by a host of angels (Morgan Allen, Megan Banks, and Nicole Messmer), the shepherds and Kings paid homage to the Holy Child.

The festival is traditionally an ancient celebration of the defeat of Satan, represented by the boar's head (which was carried in by Glen Hill). The festival began with a spirited folk dance performed by the Morris dancers, Tiffany Blackman, Morgan Allen, Nicole Messmer, and Megan Banks, and accompanied by Pastor Dennehy on fiddle.

They were followed by other country folk, which included Nance Pearsons, Lois McCarl, Christine and Alexandra Messmer, and Lois Granger. They and the animal handlers (Jaime Pearsons, Kendall Hill, Jessica Stacy, Dana Allen, Dee Gee



PARTICIPATING IN THE BOAR'S FESTIVAL at Valley Community Church included, from left - Lyle Pearsons, John Rider, Scott Belisle, and young Gratton Rider.

Blackman, and Jan, Bill, and Ryan Fugua) presented their harvest and livestock gifts before the altar.

The Lord and Lady of the Manor (Dale and Sue Pearsons), along with their Jester (Lyle Pearsons), Banner Herald (Tyler Pearsons), and Finance Minister (Scott Belisle), welcomed all to the festivities.

The candlelit church and spotlighted nativity scene gave a special atmosphere to the celebration, and a hushed silence fell over all as the spirit of the New Year (Alexandra Messmer) took the hand of Father Old Year (Pastor Dennehy) and led him skippingly down the aisle.

The players and audience alike joined together after the hour-long service for a bountiful and delicious array of desserts and finger snacks prepared by Sally Dennehy, Jane Petrie, Melody Hill, and other church members.

The children enjoyed the petting zoo set up in Dunn Hall, and the sounds of laughter as they petted guinea pigs, rabbits, and "Bear" the dog, mingled with the conversation of the worshipers who spoke highly of the evening's celebration.

ST. JOHN'S - from Page 23...

We have a special need at the 11:30 Mass. We will provide what training is necessary. Do you think you can help? Call Fr. Howard at 786-8105.

Agawam Catholic Singles Club

Meeting every 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining should call Frank at 789-2764 or Kay at 786-8442.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 17th: Oldies Dance, Polish Club, 7:00 p.m. Call Denise, 786-7783

Jan. 24th: Blizzard Basketball. Call Bob at 789-2764

Parish Liturgy Committee will meet on Thursday night, January 15th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

Building & Grounds Committee will meet on Friday night, January 16th, at 7:30 p.m.

Parish Council will meet January 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Mass For The Engaged

Once again our Diocese will celebrate a special Mass of Blessing for Engaged Couples. This will be on Sunday, February 9th at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Church in Springfield.

If you are recently engaged or are getting married within the year 1998, call the rectory so your names can be submitted for a special invitation from the Bishop. (Those already scheduled for weddings at St. John's have already been listed.)

Get away for a weekend! Sign-up for our Parish Retreat on February 20th-22nd. Get a fresh slant on your career, on your relations with family, friends, and God. Just call Tom at 789-0671.

Chicken Breast Dinner At United Methodist On January 17th

The Agawam United Methodist Church is having a fundraising dinner at 491 Mill St. in Agawam. Stuffed chicken breast will be served at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, January 17th. Donation is \$6 for seniors and \$7 for all others. Kids under 12 years of age are FREE.

Walk-ins are welcome. For a reserved seat, call 786-3261 and leave a message.

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see Dr. Nelson

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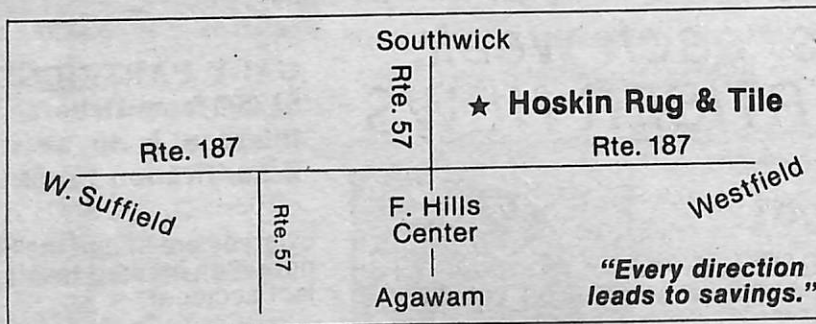
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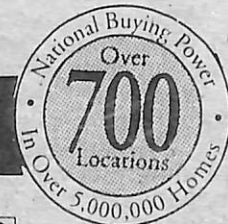
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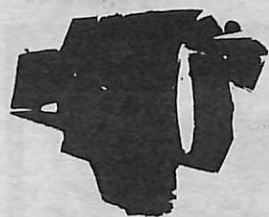
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Spotlight On Business

Agawam "Cat People" Donate Time



ATTORNEY GARY P. SHANNON

Attorney Shannon Appointed By Mass. Gov. Council

Agawam resident Attorney Gary P. Shannon has been appointed a Hampden County Public Administrator by the Massachusetts Governor's Council. Shannon is a partner in the Springfield law firm Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury, and Murphy P.C.

The appointment is for a term of five years and Attorney Shannon previously served two terms in the position. Public Administrators are charged with probating estates of Massachusetts residents who die without a will and have no known relatives in Massachusetts.

Attorney Shannon has over 20 years experience in estate administration, estate planning, and probate litigation for the Springfield law firm. He is a graduate of Bates College and earned his law degree at Washington & Lee University.

Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy is one of the largest law firms in Western Massachusetts providing a wide range of legal services including litigation, corporate, probate, real estate, taxation, estate planning, and intellectual property law.

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Legal Memo

by
Alan J. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
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Homerowners Policy Exclusions

When you purchase insurance, it may be wise to determine "what is not covered!" before reading what is covered. A case in point follows:

Where (1) individuals filed suit against a homeowner, alleging that negligence by the homeowners and their son involving operation of an all-terrain vehicle caused physical injury to the individual's son, (2) the homeowners sought a defense and indemnification from an insurance company which sold them a homeowner's policy and (3) the insurance company refused to defend or indemnify the homeowners.

The court held that the insurance company did not commit a breach of contract, as no coverage



MEMBERS OF THE FELINE FRIENDS of Agawam donated their time during the holiday season to wrap gifts at local Barnes & Noble Bookstores in Holyoke and Enfield. Feline Friends volunteer Joan Mannino (right) wraps a book for Audra Principe of Springfield at Enfield Barnes & Noble. Feline Friends is dedicated to saving stray and unwanted cats and kittens and placing them into safe and loving homes in Agawam and surrounding communities.

Westfield Bank Backs Beautification Project



GARY PARTRIDGE, Westfield Community Development director, receives a check for \$3,000 from Deborah McCarthy, assistant vice-president of Westfield Bank. The Bank's contribution is to assist the Community Development Office in its on-going Downtown Beautification Project.

existed here in that the homeowner's vehicle was not on an insured location at the time of the subject accident.

Under the Section II - Liability Coverages, (Insurance Company) has a duty to defend and to indemnify (the homeowners) unless one of the Section II - Exclusions applies. This coverage dispute turns on Section II - Exclusion 1e(1) regarding motor vehicles and motorized land conveyances and exception (2)(b) to that exclusion. Exclusion 1e(1) states that the relevant coverages do not apply to bodily injury arising out of the ownership or use of motor vehicles or other motorized land conveyances owned or operated by an insured.

The Insurance Company contended that this exclusion bars coverages for the accident claim. The homeowners contended that this vehicle exclusion does not apply because of the following exception to the vehicle exclusion: 'This exclusion does not apply to:...(2) a motorized land conveyance designed for recreational use off public roads, not subject to motor vehicle registration and:...(b) owned by an insured and on an insured location.'

Generally speaking, the vehicle exclusion excludes from the homeowners policy injuries arising out of the use of motor vehicles and other motorized land conveyances owned or operated by insureds. Such accidents are an entirely separate category of risk, and a large one. The homeowners policy makes it clear that such risks are, for the most part, excluded.

The exception relied on by the homeowners would help them only if the recreational vehicle involved in the accident was 'owned by an insured and on an insured location.' There is no dispute that the conveyance in question was owned by the homeowners. It is also undisputed that the accident occurred on another road and not on the insured premises.

The accident involving the homeowners' all-terrain vehicle thus did not occur on an insured location, and it was not subject to the exclusion exception for recreational conveyances 'owned by an insured and on an insured location.'

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

For Your Health

Edward Borgatti, Jr. Named Vice Chairman For Easter Seals

Edward P. Borgatti, Jr., owner of E.B.'s Restaurant, Agawam, has been named vice chair of the Committee for the 1998 Easter Seal fundraising campaign, according to Western Massachusetts Chairman Bill Magrone.

Working with Borgatti to raise money to fund Easter Seal services that expand independence for people with disabilities are: Chris Brunelle, Games and Lanes, Agawam; Robert Carnevale, Palmer Goodell, Springfield; Dean Florian, Insurance Center, West Springfield; Parker Hodgman, Forest Park Zoological Society, Springfield; Joseph Malmberg, Fleet Bank, East Longmeadow; Dan Plotkins, Samuel D. Plotkin and Associates, Springfield; Lori Ratchford, Chicopee Savings Bank, Chicopee; David Sanborn, Brooks, Mulcahy et al, Springfield; Jack Sarat, Sarat Ford Sales, Inc., Agawam; Gerald Sinigalli, Friendly Ice Cream, Wilbraham; and Cynthia Moulton St. George, Moulton Insurance Agency, Ware.

"One of the good things about raising money for Easter Seals is that nearly 87 cents of every dollar goes directly to services for children and adults with disabilities - right here in the community," says Borgatti. "Our disabled neighbors really use Easter Seal programs to live more independently."

Easter Seal services include home health care, physical and occupational therapy, adaptive swim, summer camp, speech therapy, support groups for people recovering from strokes, technology for independence, and information and referral services.

AIDS Presentation To Take Place At Agawam Senior Center

A presentation on AIDS will take place at the Agawam Senior Center on February 10th at 1:00 p.m.

Many of us believe that only young people need to think about HIV/AIDS. However, this is a myth; that HIV/AIDS is just a young people's disease.

Did you know nationally, approximately 11 percent of all persons, when diagnosed with AIDS, are over 50. In Massachusetts, approximately seven percent of those, when diagnosed with AIDS, are aged 50 and older.

HIV/AIDS affects older people in many ways: as parents, grandparents, partners, caregivers, and friends of people affected by the disease. In fact, it is estimated that by the year 2000, there will be 100,000 orphans in the United States because of the disease.

Come to the Agawam Senior Center on February 10th and meet Andrea Rae of the HIV/AIDS Senior Awareness Project, and learn how HIV/AIDS affects all of us.

Noble Hospital Has Support Groups

Stroke: Wednesday, January 21st, and Wednesday, February 4th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room, Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield. Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from stroke and their support persons.

Diabetes: Tuesday, January 27th, 1:00 p.m. Conference Room A, Noble Hospital. Free of charge and open to all suffering from diabetes and their support persons. Heidi Kolek, M.D., will be speaking at this meeting about stomach disorders and the diabetes patient.

best local news...

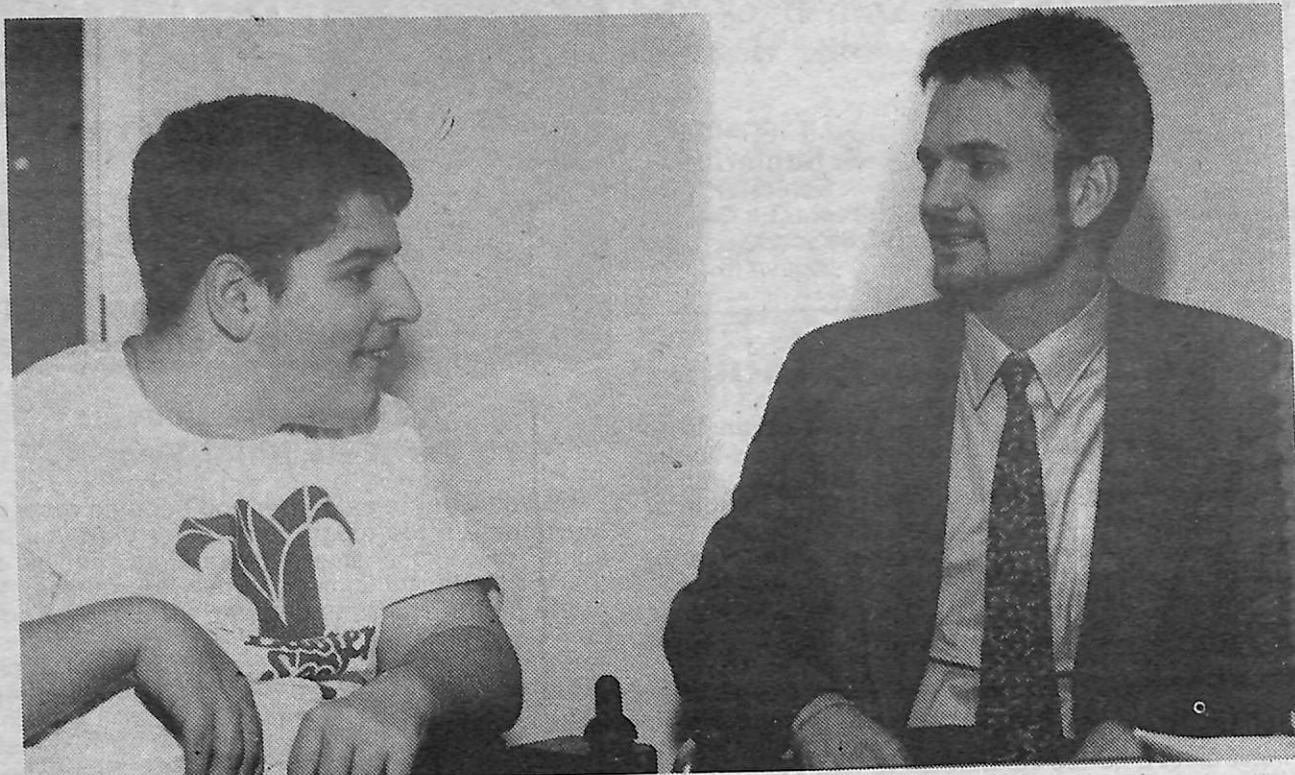
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AGAWAM BUSINESSMAN EDWARD BORGATTI, JR., of E.B.'s Restaurant, learns from Denis Marchetto, 15, of Agawam, about Marchetto's experiences at Easter Seal Camp last summer. Marchetto has gone to Easter Seal Camp for the past two years. Members of the business community have started the 1998 Easter Seal Campaign to raise funds for programs and services that benefit children and adults with disabilities throughout Western Mass.

Providence Hospital Offers Support For Parents Of Kids With Substance Abuse

Providence Hospital offers a weekly support group for parents of children with drug or alcohol abuse problems. The group meets Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 317 Maple Street in downtown Holyoke.

The meetings provide an opportunity for parents whose children are currently involved with substance abuse, or have been in the past, to share ideas on how to deal with the problem. There is no charge for the sessions.

The substance abuse services of Providence Hospital are part of Sisters of Providence Behavioral HealthCare (SPBHC).

For information on the support group, call Karen Walsh Plo, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., Administrator, SPBHC Outpatient Substance Abuse Services; or Bob Pisani, M.S., Coordinator, SPBHC Adolescent Intensive Day Treatment Services, (413) 535-1000.

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Taking courses at Springfield Technical Community College is not limited to the Armory Square campus. Several of STCC's most popular courses will be offered on Tuesday evenings for your convenience at Agawam High School.

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Survey of Early U.S. History	(3 credits)
Classes are held from 6:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. (3 credits) or 6:00 to 9:45 p.m. (4 credits.)	

Semester Schedule

Classes begin on Tuesday, January 27, and end on May 12.

For further information, please call STCC Continuing Education at 781-1315.

Registration

You may register at Agawam High School from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. only on Tuesday, January 27, pending seat availability.

You may register now at the main campus, in person, by phone, or by fax; call 781-1315. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 8:00 to 4:00; Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 to 8:00, and Saturday 9:00 to noon.

Starting January 20, hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 8:00, Friday 8:00 to 4:00, and Saturday 9:00 to noon. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted.

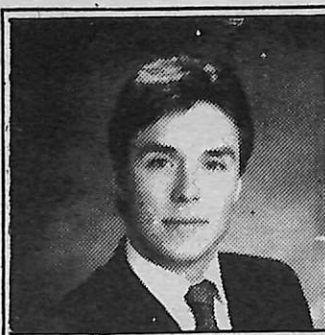
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Over 135 different credit courses are offered in STCC's Evening and Weekend College Program, including a 4:00 p.m. session and Saturday morning classes. Classes lead to a wide variety of associate degree and certificate programs.



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For Your Health - continued...



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Preventing Back Pain...

The key to preventing low back strain is to develop a balance of the muscular forces on the low back. Muscles pull on the spinal column at their points of attachment (or points of origin or insertion).

Four major muscle groups affect the lower or lumbar spine. These are the: 1) back extensors - the muscles of the lower back; 2) the hamstrings or posterior thigh muscles found at the back of your thigh; 3) the quadracep muscles or hip flexors in the front of the thigh; and 4) the abdominals.

All four of these muscle groups act together and must balance each other so that the stress to the lower back is at a minimum.

To strengthen the abdominals, a wide variety of exercise equipment is available today. It is important to avoid repeated full flexion and extension of the lumbar spine or full bending at the waist to prevent mechanical stress to the discs of the spine during any abdominal strengthening program.

Quarter situps with the knees bent adequately. Gently lift your shoulder blades from the floor. Cross your arms on your chest to avoid strain to the neck.

Strengthen your back extensors by doing chest lifts. Lie on your stomach with your arms at your sides. Keeping your legs straight, slowly lift your chest slightly off the floor without using your hands. Hold for two to three seconds. Do three sets of 10 repetitions.

Strengthen and stretch hamstrings by lying flat on your back and grasping one thigh with your knee bent. Pull your thigh to your chest. Slowly straighten your knee by extending your lower leg.

Push your foot in the direction of your head. The tension in the muscles behind your thigh increases. Hold this tension for a count of 10. Relax. Repeat this three times for each leg.

Tighten your hip flexors or quads by performing half-squats or lunges. As your strength increases, you may add light hand weights to your routine.

Good posture is important. Be aware of your posture while sitting and standing. If lower back pains continue or pain radiates down your legs, contact the **SCHLAFFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE**, 192 Shoemaker Lane, at 789-1369.



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician.

A Dozen Directions For A Healthful Year

Do you want to eat better and become more fit, but think it's too tough? It's easier than you imagine. Make one change at a time, and when that's a habit, try something new. Use these "tip of the month" ideas to get started, then add your own!

January: Set New Year's Resolutions That Stick!

Start the year off right! Set resolutions that are specific, realistic, and enjoyable. Eat a piece of fruit for an afternoon snack, or take a 10-minute walk after dinner three times a week. Small, concrete changes like these can add up to big results over the year!

February: Heart-Healthy Meals

Keep warm and healthy during the cold winter months. Try a new recipe for low-fat soup, stew, or chili. Short on time but high on health? Microwave a savory low-fat frozen entree, and round out the meal with a salad, roll, nonfat milk, and fresh fruit for dessert.

March: Celebrate National Nutrition Month®

Good news! All foods can fit into a healthful eating plan. Even indulgent favorites fit with a bit of portion control. If ice cream's your thing, make it a single dip rather than a double. Or split that cheesecake with a friend.

April: Showers of Sensible Snacks

Snacks can be an important part of a healthful diet. They can keep you from getting overly hungry so you don't overeat at mealtime, and can boost good nutrition, too. Be creative - snack on frozen grapes or banana slices, pretzel bits with low-fat yogurt, or wedges of baked sweet potato.

May: Summer Shape-Up

Get fit for summer! Start with a few minutes and build up to 30 minutes of moderate physical activity daily. You can even break-up your routine into three 10-minute chunks. And you don't have to bike, hike, walk, or run to shape up! Cleaning house, mowing the lawn, and other "everyday" ac-

tivities count, too.

June: Garden Goodies

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables. If you don't have a garden of your own, scout out the farmer's market, or the produce section of your supermarket. Why not try a new fruit or veggie each week? How about mango or kiwi? Or swap your usual carrot sticks for some crunchy jicama.

July: Barbecue Basics

Fire up the barbecue, but bone up on food safety first. Wash your hands before preparing and serving food and don't leave foods out for more than two hours. Use different plates and utensils for raw and cooked foods, and cook all meat, poultry, and fish thoroughly.

August: Summer Coolers

In the summer heat, be sure to drink plenty of fluids. Plain water is terrific, but why not add some fun and fizz? Try fruit juice with seltzer water or fruit slushies (fruit and ice mixed in the blender). Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Enjoy eight glasses of caffeine-free beverages, such as fruit juice, water, and decaffeinated tea, every day; more if you are physically active.

September: Back-to-School (or Work) Bag Lunches

Start off on the right foot—pack a healthful bag lunch for school or work. Include salads, yogurt, fresh fruits, veggies, even tasty low-fat frozen entrees for the microwave. Toss a frozen juice box in your lunch bag to keep foods cold.

October: Trick-or-Treat Trade-offs

It's Halloween and the kids have just hauled home a stash of sweets. How can you and the kids enjoy those goodies without overdoing it? Choose a treat or two each day, and freeze extras for another time.

November: Turkey Trot

Are you among the many Americans who gain an average of six pounds over the holidays? You don't have to be. Balance out an occasional holiday favorite by eating lighter at your next meal and being a bit more active - take a few extra turns around the mall while shopping. Munch on a low-fat snack such as air-popped popcorn and drink plenty of water before you go to parties to avoid overindulging. Once there, focus on the people rather than the food.

December: Holiday Presents for Yourself

During the holidays, do you get so busy doing for others that you forget to take time out for yourself? Schedule some private time to window shop, sleep late, or take a long walk. You deserve it!

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association.

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For Your Health - continued...



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by
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Physician
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Chiropractic And Vision

There was a fascinating article this month in the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* regarding a case study on two 13 year-olds with recovery of vision after the spine was manipulated.

The first 13 year-old complained of headaches, dizziness, blurred vision, motion sickness, and aches and pains. Her vision and visual fields were decreased. No abnormalities showed on x-ray, CT scan, or after a consultation with a neurologist. She had this problem for over 11 months with no improvement.

The second patient, who was also a 13 year-old girl, complained of headaches, dizziness, blurred vision, and pains and aches. She showed no signs of improvement after five months.

For these two patients, office chiropractic adjustments were used, which took less than five minutes. After seven sessions of spinal treatment over a four-week period, the vision had returned to normal in both patients. Also, the headaches, dizziness, and motion sickness stopped.

These cases remind us of how complex the body is and how unique chiropractic is. By working on the spine, not only is the musculoskeletal system being treated (low back pain, neck pain, etc.), but also the nerves are being directly affected. The change in visual function in these two cases further suggests that brain function may change when the spine is manipulated.

Chiropractors believe that in order for the nervous system to be working 100 percent, the spine needs to be functioning 100 percent. Often the vertebrae or bones in the spine "get stuck" from a myriad of causes (including injury, poor posture, stress, repetitious motion, etc.).

When these bones or joints don't function properly, they affect the spinal nerves. This may result in anything from headaches, breathing irregularities, bowel/bladder problems, visual disturbances (as in this case study), and many, many other symptoms.

The fascinating aspect of chiropractic care is that it is still a relatively new profession (just over 100 years), and daily new studies and research are being conducted to prove the effectiveness of chiropractic care.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact our office today.

Coping With Arthritis At Heritage Woods

Beginning this month, Heritage Woods is hosting the **Arthritis Foundation's Self-Help Course**. The course is offered on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for six consecutive weeks.

The curriculum is a tested self-management program for coping with arthritis. Please call or stop by Heritage Woods at (413) 786-9704 for more information or to register.

Heritage Woods assisted living hosts "Wellness Wednesdays" each week. Wednesdays throughout the new year are filled with health and wellness activities open to the public and specially created for older adults who enjoy staying fit, having fun, and feeling better.

The activities include a Blood Pressure Screening, Massage Therapy, Yoga for Seniors, and a Podiatry Screening. More information is available by calling (413) 786-9704.

Chronic Pain Support At Mercy Hospital

The Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at Mercy Hospital sponsors a free Chronic Pain Support Group for sufferers, their families, and friends.

The next meeting will be conducted January 27th, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in room 224 of the Weldon Center, 233 Carew St.

The group is led by Glenn Fagen, Ph.D., a clinical neuropsychologist at the Weldon Center. Dr. Fagen will discuss new technologies, theories, and treatments for chronic pain; participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and learn pain management techniques.

For more information, call Dr. Fagen, (413) 748-6996.

Managing YOUR STRESS

by Dr. Stephen Sobel
M.S., S.M.C.



The "Advantages" Of Being A Negative Or Pessimistic Thinker

I describe negative thinkers as the type of people who believe every baby has to get diaper rash in the first three days of life.

They feel it is inevitable. I use the words "negative thinker" synonymously with "pessimistic thinker." The pessimistic thinker is much like the negative thinker in that whenever he or she leaves a room where there are other people, the room seems to brighten up just by the fact that this person has left.

The pessimistic thinker is also the type of person who feels that his fate is usually reserved for one serving a life sentence for a serious crime. He carries gloom and doom verbally and nonverbally. He often looks as if life had beaten him on a daily basis with a heavy broom. His facial expressions are enough to ruin even the most enthusiastic of appetites for people who haven't eaten in days.

Negative and pessimistic thinkers are also well-known for draining the energy level of others in a short period of time. Some people report that a truly negative person can make one feel like day-old spaghetti within 20 seconds of trying to converse with him.

The truly negative person will usually give off the message, even if he or she doesn't say anything; "What's the use?" I am sure you have run into a few negative people over the last few days, weeks, or years. What you will almost never find out is that these energy drainers actually think there are advantages to staying increasingly negative and pessimistic.

I would like to share with you the insights provided by a recent interview with 15 of the most draining, negative, doom and gloom people I could find. (I needed three weeks to recover from the interviews as I didn't understand how contagious negativity really is even if you think you can block it out. There is no sunscreen powerful enough for the TPNP, the truly persistent negative

person.)

The interviews will provide you with the "advantages" people think they have in staying increasingly negative and sour.

A TPNP's Advantages

- "It gets me much attention."
- "It requires effort, and this makes me feel like I have done something with the day."
- "It allows me, because of my negative and sour disposition to not take risks in life."
- "It often prevents me from having to leave the house."

• "It goes a long way toward allowing me to not listen closely and be in touch with others. It is the perfect recipe for isolation and sustained misery."

• "It actually helps bring on some types of physical illness when I need it, such as colds."

• "It is a perfect way to get sleep since being a good pessimist makes me really tired. I don't have to exercise to feel fatigued."

• "I can't think of anything that requires more time. Being a negative thinker has become a real calling for me. I think I have found my place in life."

• "I don't get invited to parties or get-togethers anymore. Since I have become an obvious pessimist, people don't want me around. Who needs to deal with other people, anyway? It takes too much effort to begin with."

• "I've got my own cubicle at work, away from the mainstream because people couldn't take it (my negative statements and judging of others) anymore."

• "Come to think of it, it probably would take considerably longer to get away from others if I did it another way."

As you can see from the above choice statements by some of those interviewed, there are some clear "advantages" to staying or becoming a well-seasoned negative thinker and pessimist.

A reminder: We need to also remember that maintaining a negative focus even for a minute, let alone a day, uses valuable mental energy.

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Alzheimer's Support At The Atrium

The Atrium at Cardinal Drive announces a new support group for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

This early diagnosed group will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is planned for January 20th at the new assisted living facility located at 153 Cardinal Drive in Agawam.

Support groups offer a safe environment to share ideas, feelings, and concerns. For more information, call 788-7700 or 821-9911.

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Sweet 16, Elise



Love,
Mom, Gram & Cindi

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Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson**
Chiropractic
Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Chiropractic And Vision

There was a fascinating article this month in the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* regarding a case study on two 13 year-olds with recovery of vision after the spine was manipulated.

The first 13 year-old complained of headaches, dizziness, blurred vision, motion sickness, and aches and pains. Her vision and visual fields were decreased. No abnormalities showed on x-ray, CT scan, or after a consultation with a neurologist. She had this problem for over 11 months with no improvement.

The second patient, who was also a 13 year-old girl, complained of headaches, dizziness, blurred vision, and pains and aches. She showed no signs of improvement after five months.

For these two patients, office chiropractic adjustments were used, which took less than five minutes. After seven sessions of spinal treatment over a four-week period, the vision had returned to normal in both patients. Also, the headaches, dizziness, and motion sickness stopped.

These cases remind us of how complex the body is and how unique chiropractic is. By working on the spine, not only is the musculoskeletal system being treated (low back pain, neck pain, etc.), but also the nerves are being directly affected. The change in visual function in these two cases further suggests that brain function may change when the spine is manipulated.

Chiropractors believe that in order for the nervous system to be working 100 percent, the spine needs to be functioning 100 percent. Often the vertebrae or bones in the spine "get stuck" from a myriad of causes (including injury, poor posture, stress, repetitious motion, etc.).

When these bones or joints don't function properly, they affect the spinal nerves. This may result in anything from headaches, breathing irregularities, bowel/bladder problems, visual disturbances (as in this case study), and many, many other symptoms.

The fascinating aspect of chiropractic care is that it is still a relatively new profession (just over 100 years), and daily new studies and research are being conducted to prove the effectiveness of chiropractic care.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact our office today.

Coping With Arthritis
At Heritage Woods

Beginning this month, Heritage Woods is hosting the **Arthritis Foundation's Self-Help Course**. The course is offered on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for six consecutive weeks.

The curriculum is a tested self-management program for coping with arthritis. Please call or stop by Heritage Woods at (413) 786-9704 for more information or to register.

Heritage Woods assisted living hosts "Wellness Wednesdays" each week. Wednesdays throughout the new year are filled with health and wellness activities open to the public and specially created for older adults who enjoy staying fit, having fun, and feeling better.

The activities include a Blood Pressure Screening, Massage Therapy, Yoga for Seniors, and a Podiatry Screening. More information is available by calling (413) 786-9704.

Chronic Pain Support
At Mercy Hospital

The Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at Mercy Hospital sponsors a free Chronic Pain Support Group for sufferers, their families, and friends.

The next meeting will be conducted January 27th, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in room 224 of the Weldon Center, 233 Carew St.

The group is led by Glenn Fagen, Ph.D., a clinical neuropsychologist at the Weldon Center. Dr. Fagen will discuss new technologies, theories, and treatments for chronic pain; participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and learn pain management techniques.

For more information, call Dr. Fagen, (413) 748-6996.

Managing
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by Dr. Stephen Sobel
M.S., S.M.C.

The "Advantages" Of Being
A Negative Or Pessimistic Thinker

I describe negative thinkers as the type of people who believe every baby has to get diaper rash in the first three days of life.

They feel it is inevitable. I use the words "negative thinker" synonymously with "pessimistic thinker." The pessimistic thinker is much like the negative thinker in that whenever he or she leaves a room where there are other people, the room seems to brighten up just by the fact that this person has left.

The pessimistic thinker is also the type of person who feels that his fate is usually reserved for one serving a life sentence for a serious crime. He carries gloom and doom verbally and nonverbally. He often looks as if life had beaten him on a daily basis with a heavy broom. His facial expressions are enough to ruin even the most enthusiastic of appetites for people who haven't eaten in days.

Negative and pessimistic thinkers are also well-known for draining the energy level of others in a short period of time. Some people report that a truly negative person can make one feel like day-old spaghetti within 20 seconds of trying to converse with him.

The truly negative person will usually give off the message, even if he or she doesn't say anything; "What's the use?" I am sure you have run into a few negative people over the last few days, weeks, or years. What you will almost never find out is that these energy drainers actually think there are advantages to staying increasingly negative and pessimistic.

I would like to share with you the insights provided by a recent interview with 15 of the most draining, negative, doom and gloom people I could find. (I needed three weeks to recover from the interviews as I didn't understand how contagious negativity really is even if you think you can block it out. There is no sunscreen powerful enough for the TPNP, the truly persistent negative

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person.)

The interviews will provide you with the "advantages" people think they have in staying increasingly negative and sour.

A TPNP's Advantages

- "It gets me much attention."
- "It requires effort, and this makes me feel like I have done something with the day."
- "It allows me, because of my negative and sour disposition to not take risks in life."
- "It often prevents me from having to leave the house."

• "It goes a long way toward allowing me to not listen closely and be in touch with others. It is the perfect recipe for isolation and sustained misery."

• "It actually helps bring on some types of physical illness when I need it, such as colds."

• "It is a perfect way to get sleep since being a good pessimist makes me really tired. I don't have to exercise to feel fatigued."

• "I can't think of anything that requires more time. Being a negative thinker has become a real calling for me. I think I have found my place in life."

• "I don't get invited to parties or get-togethers anymore. Since I have become an obvious pessimist, people don't want me around. Who needs to deal with other people, anyway? It takes too much effort to begin with."

• "I've got my own cubicle at work, away from the mainstream because people couldn't take it (my negative statements and judging of others) anymore."

• "Come to think of it, it probably would take considerably longer to get away from others if I did it another way."

As you can see from the above choice statements by some of those interviewed, there are some clear "advantages" to staying or becoming a well-seasoned negative thinker and pessimist.

A reminder: We need to also remember that maintaining a negative focus even for a minute, let alone a day, uses valuable mental energy.

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Sweet 16,
Elise

Love,
Mom, Gram & Cindi



Arts

STAGE Begins New Series Of Programs

STAGE CHILDREN'S THEATRE will begin its 10th season with programs for children ages four to 15. The first program will begin on Saturday, January 18th, with CREATIVE DRAMATICS open to children ages four to seven.

This is a five-week course running from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday mornings through February 14th. CREATIVE DRAMATICS offers children an opportunity to explore the wonderful world of make-believe. Through the use of music, movement, mime, and 'magination, children begin to approach performing in a gentle, playful, yet disciplined and creative manner.

These workshops are a chance for them to act out ideas, emotions, and situations through puppetry, storytelling, and imaginative play, allowing them to become comfortable performing with and in front of others.

The second program is open to children ages eight to 15 and results in four public performances of "ALADDIN." The program runs Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. beginning January 27th.

This new script has been adapted by Lyle Pearsons and is true to the original story of "ALADDIN," written by Richard Burton as part of a collection of stories known as "TALES OF ARABIAN NIGHTS."

The frame of this collection is based on the actions of Scheherazade, Queen of Samarkand, whose husband demanded a new wife each year. To keep him from killing her, she tells him a story and ends each one at the climax.

This new STAGE play introduces us to this clever Queen, whose trickery takes us into the wondrous story of a young, fatherless boy who unwittingly comes into the possession of a magic ring belonging to the evil magician, Mustapha. He claims to be Aladdin's uncle in order to secure the boy's services in finding a hidden magic lamp.

What is in the lamp and the adventures that Aladdin has as he tries to win the hand of the Sultan's daughter make for an exciting magic carpet ride through the mean streets of ancient China, to dark, forbidden caves, to the grandeur of Persia's palaces. Productions of "ALADDIN" are on March 13th, 14th, and 15th.

Join us for the fun. All classes are held at THE RED DOOR THEATRE, 152 S. WESTFIELD ST., FEEDING HILLS, MA. For more information on registration, call (413) 789-2026.

Storowton Village Seeking Volunteers For 1998 Programs

Eastern States Exposition's Storowton Village Museum in West Springfield is seeking individuals interested in becoming volunteers for its 1998 school programs.

Volunteerism has been the lifeblood of the historic 19th century Village where a glimpse of life in early New England is presented through unique programs such as the "Look Back," "Little Red Schoolhouse," and "Today's Math in Yesterday's Market" for children.

Storowton Village Museum's education programs take place throughout the year and volunteers are needed for weekday mornings and afternoons.

The Village also hosts numerous tours, special events, and special programs during the year.

Those interested in learning more about becoming a Village volunteer may call the Village at 413-787-0136 weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"Pippi Longstocking" To Be Shown At Agawam Library

Agawam and Feeding Hills residents aged four and up are invited to view an animated version of "Pippi Longstocking" at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., on Saturday, January 24th, from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Bring something comfortable to sit on, and snacks will be supplied.

PLEASE REGISTER BY CALLING 789-1550 OR VISITING THE LIBRARY.

Best local news...

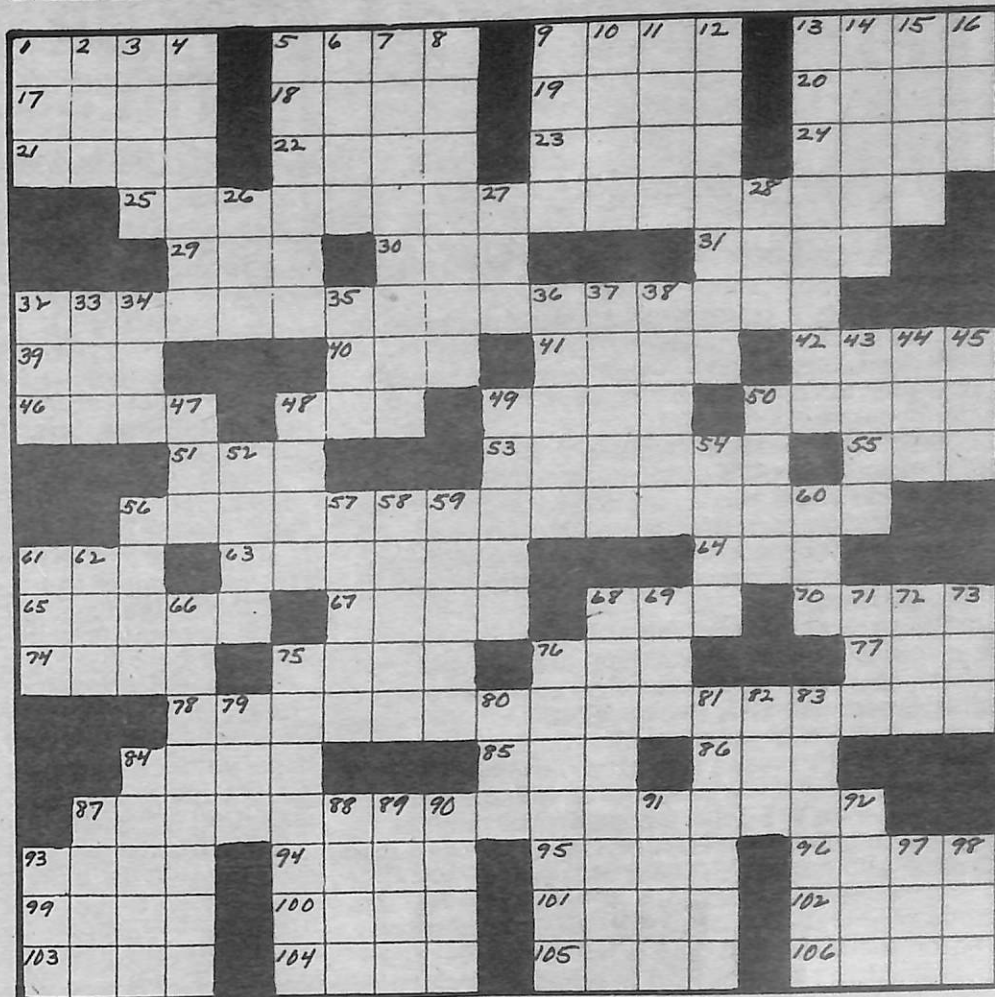
ACROSS

- 1 Musical concluder
- 5 Hospital site (abbr.)
- 9 "— and Circumstance"
- 13 Happy for
- 17 Sheltered side
- 18 Explorer Vasco De —
- 19 Hebrew measurement
- 20 European capital
- 21 Rip apart
- 22 Word with lock or iron
- 23 Alaskan city
- 24 Chills
- 25 Optimist's words
- 29 Life story
- 30 "— Paulo"
- 31 Assists
- 32 Big chunk of the Northeast
- 39 Call at home plate
- 40 Table scrap
- 41 "— Sweet Home"
- 42 "— no good"
- 46 Unique one
- 48 Shy
- 49 Actress Miles
- 50 Zulu weapon
- 51 "The Lady — Tramp" (Sinatra classic)
- 53 Ms. Kitt
- 55 Lowe or Reiner
- 56 Questioning words
- 61 Word of triumph
- 63 Get rid of
- 64 Charged particle
- 65 Durable material
- 67 Bobbles
- 68 Lady of Spain
- 70 Singer Fitzgerald
- 74 Prayer ending
- 75 Destroy
- 76 N. Zealand parrot
- 77 Stirrup locale
- 78 Neighborhood newcomer
- 84 Play for pay people
- 85 Whoa (var.)
- 86 Spawn
- 87 The Chicago Tribune
- 93 Win out over
- 94 Whodunit name
- 95 Spanish aunts
- 96 Homeless child
- 99 Track event
- 100 O'Flaherty
- 101 Actress Adams
- 102 Actor Ray
- 103 "Planet of the —"
- 104 Downsides
- 105 Lairs
- 106 Timespan

DOWN

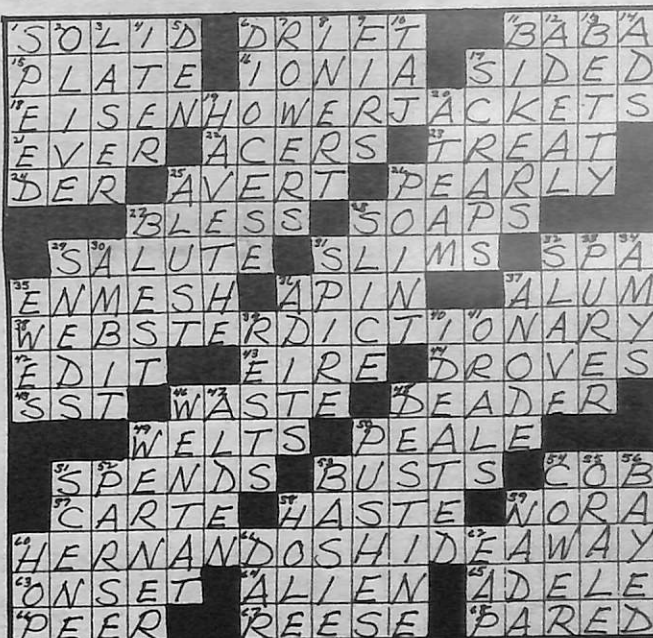
- 1 House pet
- 2 Bullring cheer
- 3 Stockwell or Jagger
- 4 Microorganism
- 5 Christmas cheer
- 6 Ship (Jap.)
- 7 Scout
- 8 Glowing
- 9 Ping follower
- 10 Typee sequel

MEET THE MASTER - by Dick Mastroianni



- 11 Business circuit
- 12 Antedate
- 13 Uses the molars
- 14 Locality
- 15 Singer Ed
- 16 Plaines or Moines
- 26 "— Rummy"
- 27 Prairie building material
- 28 Give (Scot.)
- 32 Burbling word
- 33 One with a habit
- 34 Mountain Indian
- 35 Old card game
- 36 "— Stadium" (Mets' home)
- 37 N.Y. Yankees manager
- 38 Violin maker
- 43 Inca land
- 44 The way in China
- 45 Sphere
- 47 Bravo or Grande
- 48 Songwriter Sammy
- 49 S. African grasslands
- 50 East Indies palm
- 52 Swam another way
- 54 Chinese Dynasty
- 56 Rational
- 57 "Spring —"
- 58 Body trunk
- 59 Auriculate
- 60 Compass heading
- 61 Actress Rehan
- 62 "— and haw"
- 66 Unappreciative ones
- 68 Save (2 words)

Last Week's Solution...



- 69 Arena cheer
- 71 Dead-end kid
- 72 Varnish ingredient
- 73 Noah's craft
- 75 Funnyman Nipsey
- 76 Scourged
- 79 Quisling's land (abbr.)
- 80 Possess
- 81 Expunges
- 82 Half of Gillespie's forte
- 83 Space at sea
- 84 Irene's domain
- 87 Pile up
- 88 Musical group
- 89 Side dish
- 90 Precious stones
- 91 Unpleasant sensation
- 92 Chest rattle
- 93 Bikini part
- 97 Actress Lupino
- 98 Pro side

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Education

Literacy Contest At Jr. High, AHS Brings Out "Generations"

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

To celebrate National Family Literacy Month, English teachers at the Junior High and High School asked their students to participate in an essay contest describing the way literacy spans the generations by going back to their earliest memories of having someone in their families read to them.

Recently, students at both schools were honored for the excellence of their work. At the Junior High, seventh grade English teacher Debra Donaldson handed out five \$15 gift certificates to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore to winners of the essay contest and one Friendly's gift certificate for honorable mention.

Mrs. Donaldson said the Junior High students were asked to think about their experiences with reading and about who had first introduced them to books.

"I was impressed with their enthusiasm and with the books they had read as young children," Mrs. Donaldson said. "There was a lot of pride in their reading and in carrying on the reading traditions of their families by reading to younger family members."

English teacher Laura Wray said working on the contest brought her closer to her students.

"We found out we liked a lot of the same childhood books," Ms. Wray said. "It was neat to find out we had the same favorites, like *Green Eggs and Ham*."

Student **Megan Mercadante** enjoyed writing her essay because it gave her the chance to acknowledge how important her older sister, Jennifer, had been to her as a young reader.

"My sister taught me to read," Megan said. "She would take me to the library and help me pick out books."

Wide Ranging Influence

Christin Cilimberg wrote about how reading influences everything she does in school. "I like to read to experience new things through books," Christin said.

Surprised he had won a prize, **Ian Hamlett** said he wrote about the way his mom and dad passed reading down to him. **Ashlee Montessi** said she remembered her mother helping her learn to read during her first years in school.

Whitney Brown credited her sixth grade teacher, Evelyn Lester, with helping her understand literature from a different point of view. "I didn't think I'd enjoy the contest. But I did and I'm looking forward to writing more essays," Whitney said.

Heather Cox remembered her mother reading aloud to her, her father helping with word flashcards, and her sister, Stephanie, inspiring her to read more. "Stephanie would read her books so fast, it influenced me to try harder," Heather said.

The prizes at the Junior High were donated by the PTO. At the High School, prizes were donated by the School Council and by the Renaissance Club.

Before awarding 14 Holyoke Mall gift certificates for \$25 to the High School contest winners and four Webster's dictionaries as honorable mention prizes, AHS Principal Joseph Zabielski talked to the students about the importance of being able to read and write as adults.

Zabielski asked the students to imagine the embarrassment they would suffer if they could not fill out a job application or the problems they would have getting around a city if they could not read the names of the subway stops.

"Our constitution says all people are created equal. But if you can't read, you can't be equal," Zabielski said.

The Benefits Of Reading Aloud

AHS reading specialist Sandra Marona, who worked with English Curriculum Coordinator Rosemary Stratton in choosing the contest winners, said many of the students wrote about how much they appreciated having relatives read aloud to them as youngsters.

"Soup's On" At The Agawam Public Library

Agawam and Feeding Hills children are invited to attend "Soup's On," a program including soup stories and homemade soup.

Please sign-up in advance because registration will be limited by the size of the soup pot!

CALL 789-1550 OR VISIT THE LIBRARY TO REGISTER.

Agawam and Feeding Hills children aged three



JUNIOR HIGH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS with English teacher Debra Donaldson (left). From left - Megan Mercadante, Ashlee Montessi, Heather Cox, Whitney Brown, Christin Cilimberg, Ian Hamlett, and Laura Wray. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST winners with English teacher Dorothy Martin (second from right) and reading specialist Sandra Marona (right). Winners included Karen Whitney, Jill Rouvellat, Brenna McGinn, Martha Manning, Asa Allen, Martin Finn, Michelle Kowalski, Kristen Ellis, Kelly McNeish, Karen Braccialarghi, Leila Mounemneh, Danielle Bourdeau, David Thomas, and Jenny Waterman. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

"These essays were outstanding," Mrs. Marona said. "They showed an understanding of the importance of passing on the gift of literacy."

English teacher Dorothy Martin was impressed that her students recognized the importance of being read to as young children and a sense of connection between family members based on literacy.

The winning essays were submitted by Karen Whitney, Jill Rouvellat, Brenna McGinn, Martha Manning, Asa Allen, Martin Finn, Michelle Kowalski, Kristen Ellis, Kelly McNeish, Karen Braccialarghi, Leila Mounemneh, Danielle Bourdeau, David Thomas, and Jenny Waterman.

Receiving honorable mention for their essays were Jill Lungarini, James Voos, Chris Rousseau, and Matt Guillemette.

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Curriculum Review Moves Forward

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

It was a message they have long been waiting to hear, but School Committee members were not pleased with the methods used by the central office to report on their progress in overhauling the K-12 curriculum and in revising the way eighth grade students choose the classes for their freshman year at the High School.

School Superintendent Frank Ameruso and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Mary Czajkowski earned high marks for content, but lost points on form as committee members chided them for failing to submit the written report on curriculum in advance of Tuesday night's meeting, as well as for scheduling an orientation meeting for eighth grade parents to review course offerings, textbooks, and study materials before the committee has approved the revised Program of Studies for the High School.

Concluding her report on the work being done on rewriting the curriculum, Ms. Czajkowski said, "I firmly believe that curriculum is an ongoing process. Once completed, the Agawam Public Schools' curriculum will become a living document, one that will be constantly reviewed by teachers, coordinators, administrators, parents, and School Committee members. Although a great deal of work has been performed to align our curriculum with the state's curriculum frameworks, the real test will be the implementation of the curriculum and the upcoming mandated statewide assessments."

Ameruso said the school system has become a regional leader as a result of the comprehensive revitalization made possible by the appropriation of over a half-million dollars for textbooks alone in the last two years.

"Good teams and people willing to spend a dollar on their school system is the way it gets done," Ameruso said.

Johnson Praises Administrators...

School Committee Chairman (Mayor) Christopher C. Johnson praised the administrators for their work in creating a "vibrant, modern, updated" curriculum that is vital for students to succeed. "This is the number one priority shared by all of us on this committee," Johnson said.

When the new curriculum is implemented and all the new study materials have been purchased, Ms. Czajkowski will begin working with academic coordinators, elementary specialists, and liaison teachers to develop an assessment tool to ensure that the teachers are following the curriculum.

In addition to working on the curriculum rewrite, Ms. Czajkowski has been meeting with the High School administrative team and the academic coordinators to revise the Program of Studies for next year. Over the last four months, the group assessed the need for specific courses, determined which courses could not be offered due to lack of staff, and eliminated the courses which have not run for several years due to low enrollment.

Committee members will receive the copies of the finished booklet at the January 27th meeting, but Ameruso promised to provide them with the final draft immediately when members complained that policy required School Committee approval of the course of studies.

Ms. Czajkowski said the scheduling of classes at the High School for the upcoming year will begin significantly earlier than in past years, and the parents will have an opportunity to take a more active role in selecting courses for their students, specifically for the freshman class.

An eighth grade Parent Orientation will be held on Wednesday, January 28th, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium and cafeteria.

First, parents will gather in the auditorium for a presentation on course selections, the scheduling timeline, and a look at a sample ninth grade schedule. After that, the orientation will move to the cafeteria where the parents will have the opportunity to browse through textbooks and study materials with the academic coordinators.

Course selections for all students in grades eight through 11 will be completed before the April vacation. Course enrollment and staff assignments will be done before June 1st.

Revising The Curriculum Guides...

Another major curriculum initiative at the High School involves revising the Curriculum Guides in preparation for the High School accreditation that will be conducted in the fall by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Ms. Czajkowski said.

Revising the curriculum guides began last summer. The work has been continuing after school and on early-release days to meet the April 1st deadline for completing the project in time for teachers to review the final drafts before the end of the school year. Many of the guides have not been revamped since 1978.

Progress on the curriculum rewrite to date includes:

- Alignment with state frameworks in English language arts, math, and science in grades kindergarten through eight.

- Revision of part of the social studies curriculum will be presented in the spring. New textbooks will be purchased for grades seven, nine, and 11. Because the final state framework in social studies was not adopted until last month, curriculum writing will continue next year.

- Implementation of new reading and science series in grades kindergarten through six, with teachers receiving professional development.

- Purchase of a new math series for grades six, seven, and eight, with teachers receiving professional development.

- Selection of new math textbooks for grades kindergarten through five. Teachers will receive professional development in the new material before the end of the year.

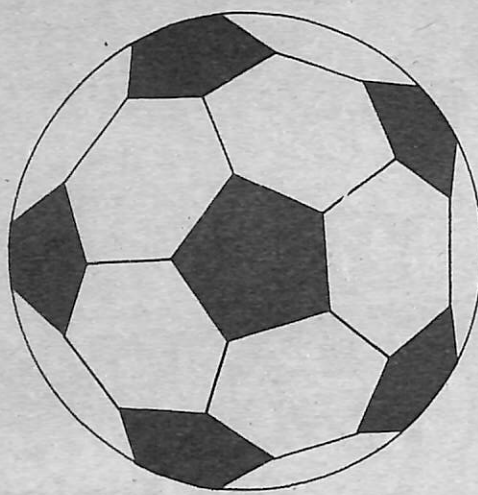
Agawam Students Participating In Senior Festival Concert

The annual Senior Festival Concert of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association will be held on Saturday, January 17th at 4:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, University of Massachusetts/Amherst. (The snow date is January 18th.)

Approximately 400 senior high school students representing 45 high schools throughout Western Massachusetts will be participating. These performers were selected from over 900 students who auditioned last November.

Agawam students participating include Mary Manning, Carolyn Cline, and Angela Tassinari, band; Dan Hendrix, Patrick Lennon, Kevin Cornwell, and Charlie Denison (jazz band); and James Crowley, Justin Bushey, and Geoffrey Krapf (chorus).

The AGAWAM SOCCER ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES A SPRING IN-TOWN SOCCER PROGRAM



**SIGN-UPS
for
SPRING
In-Town SOCCER**

**January 27
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Agawam Public
Library**

**These sign-ups are for a
SUNDAY ONLY league for boys and girls born
between 10/1/87 and 10/1/91 ONLY!
\$35.00 registration fee per child
\$85.00 Maximum per family**

**This will be an 8 week program commencing in
early April and ending in mid June**

**PVJSL Signups
LATE Signups for the Spring Pioneer Valley
Program will also be taken at this time. \$45/player.**

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, January 19th: No school (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

Tuesday, January 20th: Steamed frankfort in roll, oven French fries with catsup, Boston baked beans, pineapple tidbits, milk.

Wednesday, January 21st: Baked hamburger in macaroni and spaghetti sauce, Italian bread and butter, seasoned green beans, chocolate brownie or fruit cup, milk.

Thursday, January 22nd: Oven-baked chicken nuggets with honey and mayonnaise, seasoned peas and carrots, bread and butter, steamed rice, apple sauce or chocolate oatmeal bar, milk.

Friday, January 23rd: Cup of orange juice, tuna salad sandwich in a roll, oven potato puffs with catsup, niblet corn, ice cream cup, milk.

Area Students Named To HCC's 1997 Fall Semester Dean's List

Holyoke Community College's Office of Academic Affairs has named the following full-time and part-time students to the Dean's List for the 1997 Fall Semester.

Full-time students named to the Dean's List have completed at least 12 semester hours of courses and achieved at least a 3.2 quality point average.

Part-time students named to the Dean's List have completed less than 12 semester hours of courses and achieved at least a 3.2 quality point average.

*** Full-Time Students From Agawam:**

Danielle M. Curley, Gerry Gosselin, Michiyo Isogai, Ken Phu, and Yvette Velazquez.

*** Part-Time Students From Agawam:**

Melissa L. Benerakis, Susan M. Blakeslee, Anthony G. Cichetti, Carmen Daigneault, Lindalee A. Davis, John A. Krawiec, Anthony L. Maloni, Bradley S. Tryba, and Heather J. Von Hollander.

*** Full-Time Students From Feeding Hills:**

Jay W. Berger, Karen A. Hershowitz, and Kristine B. Langlois.

*** Part-Time Students From Feeding Hills:**

Johnny Leo Arel, Shelley J. Brown, Lynda K. Durand-Reid, Eleanor M. Jean, Robin Ann Magagnoli, and Dana L. Strader.

Jamie Lewis Named To "Who's Who" Of College Students

Jamie Lewis, a resident of Feeding Hills, is among 39 Providence College students who have been named to the 1998 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

A member of the class of 1998, Lewis is an elementary/special education major at the college. She is a member of the Friar's Club, a student service organization; serves on the Council for Exceptional Children; and is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi international honor society in education.

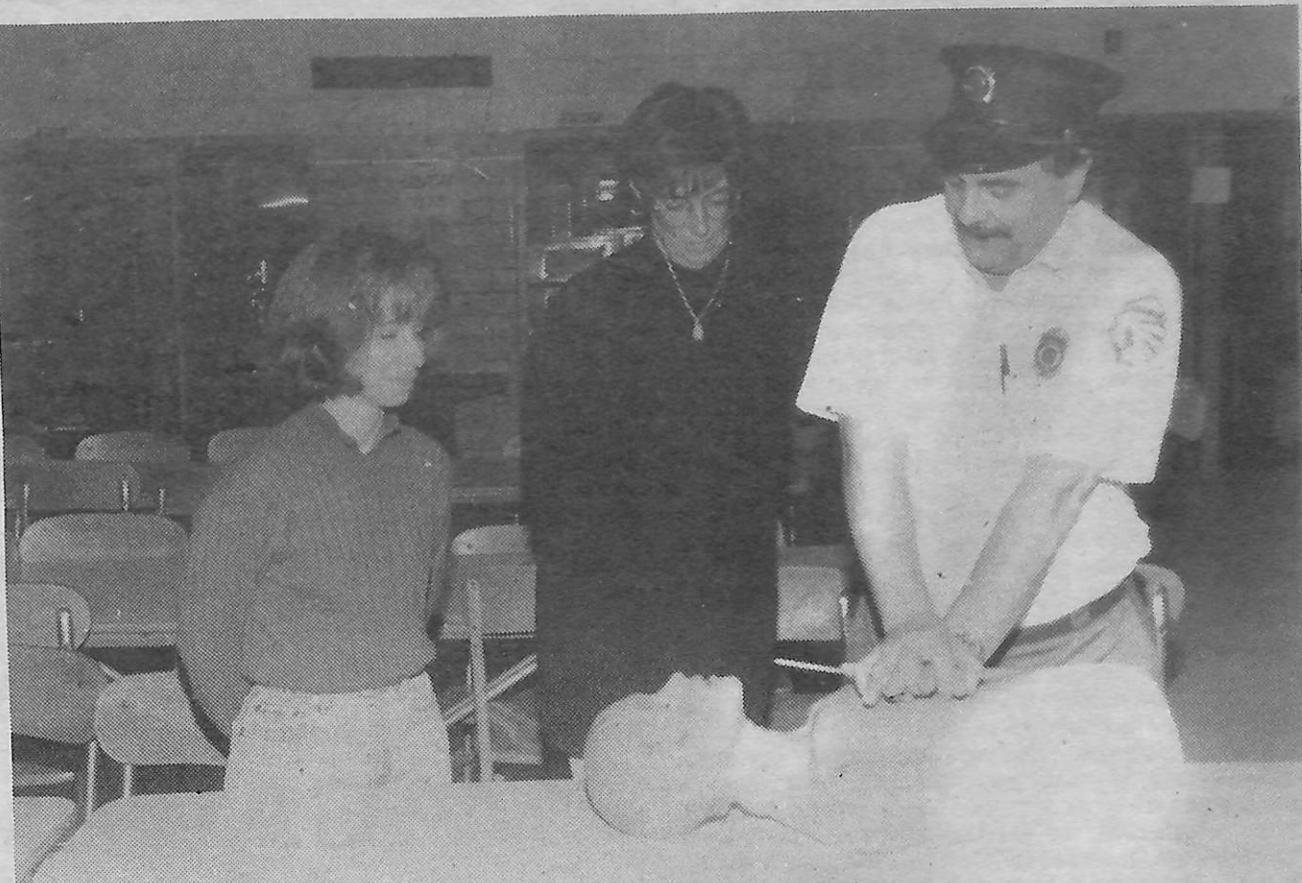
Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory selected students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success. The Providence College undergraduates join an elite group of students selected from more than 1,900 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations. Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1934.

Providence College, the only college in the United States under the auspices of the Dominican Friars, is a coeducational liberal arts and sciences institution with an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 3,600.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Providence College number one among colleges and universities in the north region of the country in its 1998 edition of *America's Best Colleges*.

The college was also cited as one of the top 15 "best buys" in the northeast in *Money* magazine's most recent annual value rankings.

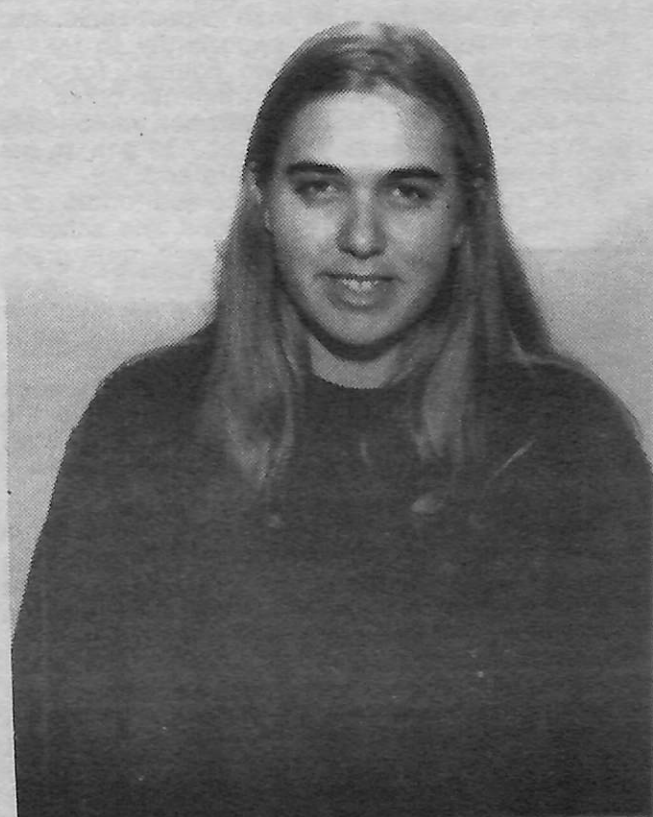
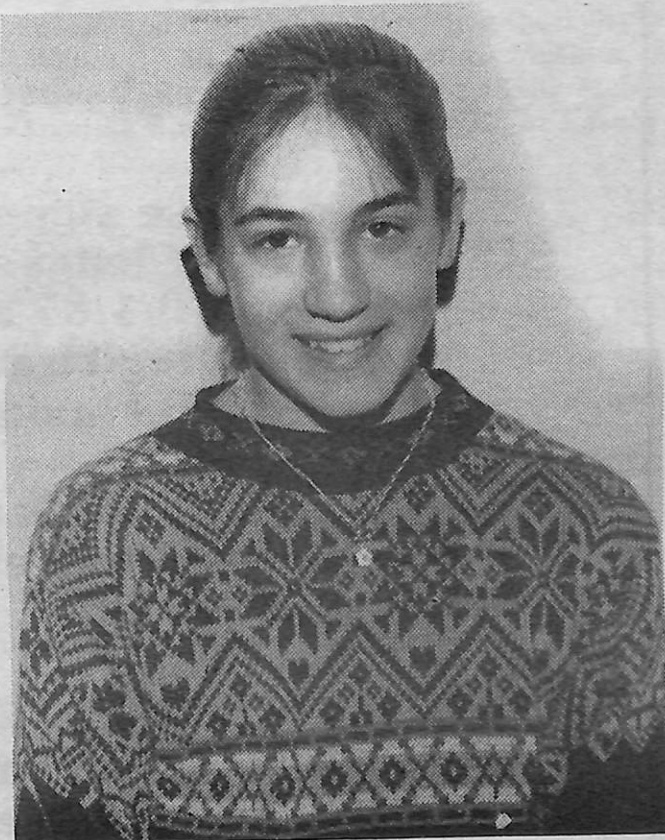
CPR Demonstration At Agawam High School



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL recently held a CPR demonstration with Agawam Fire Department instructor Michael Mercadante. IN TOP PHOTO, Mercadante gives a demo to Lisa Howe and Joanne Styckiewicz; in PHOTO LEFT, Mercadante looks on as Athletic Director Kathy McSweeney and Debbie Braccialarghe give it a try. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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Top Junior High Art Students



ART STUDENTS OF THE MONTH for December at the Agawam Junior High were Jessica Ferreira (left) and Danya Decoteau. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Guidance Column...

by Paul C. Cavallo
Deputy Principal

Mid-Year Exam Schedule...

Mid-year examinations will be administered to grades nine through 12 in all subjects on Monday, January 26th, Tuesday, January 27th, and Wednesday, January 28th. The second semester begins on Thursday, January 29th.

The examination schedule is as follows:

*** Monday, January 26th:**

- Period I, 7:25 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.
- Period II, 9:10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
- Period III, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

*** Tuesday, January 27th:**

- Period IV, 7:25 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.
- Period V, 9:10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
- Make-Up Exams, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

*** Wednesday, January 28th:**

- Period VI, 7:25 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.
- Period VII, 9:10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
- Make-Up Exams, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

For students who have to make up a mid-term examination on either Tuesday or Wednesday, two late busses will be available (one for Feeding Hills, one for Agawam). Also, sandwiches and milk will be available for students until 12:15 p.m. each day.

We have told students that the mid-term exam should be taken very seriously, for it counts for 20 percent of the semester grade. It is a great opportunity for students to raise their grade average.

Report cards are tentatively scheduled to be issued on February 6, 1998.

Parents should be starting to complete Profiles and FAFSA's. Parents should have called the 800 number by now for the Profiles in order to receive an application. If you have any questions, call the financial aid office of the college to which your son/daughter is applying.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Congratulations!

Jonathan Couture: University of South Carolina.
Kevin Hill: Western New England College.
Ted Lee: University of Pennsylvania.
Brooke Ramah: Elms College.
Christina Januska: Elms College, St. Joseph College.

Eric Fay: Daemen College, American International College.

Justin Stacy: Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Rebecca Howard: Western New England College.

Jeff Lyman: University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Northeastern University.

Joseph Heneghan: American International College.

Joella Raiche: Elms College.

Tanya Elias: Fisher College.

Danielle Gibson: Dean College, Becker College.

Karen Braccialarghe: Salem State College.

Jeffrey Machia: Salem State College, Westfield State College, Suffolk University, Framingham State College.

Katherine Anderson: Western New England College, Elms College.

Ryan Progulske: American International College.

Andrew St. Jean: Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Christina LaValley: Elms College.

Asa Allen: Salem State College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Stephanie Fleming: Assumption College.

Michael Savioli: Johnson and Wales University.

Darcy Bates: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology.

Heidi Benton: Suffolk University.

Michelle Kowalewski: Russell Sage College, Bay Path College.

Richard Feeley: Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Anna Bialas: Westfield State College.

Brian Beglane: UMass Lowell, Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Mark DelNegro: Mitchell College.

Melissa Boissonneault: Elms College.

Bryan O'Quinn: Gannon University.

SCHOLARSHIPS: See your counselor for more information or an application.

Order Sons of Italy Scholarship: A minimum of 22 scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to qualified members of the senior class based on the following criteria: scholastic ability, character, and activities. Consideration will be given to only four-year, degree-granting colleges. Deadline: March 1, 1998.

RMHC/HACER Scholarships: Open to seniors of Hispanic descent who will be attending college in September 1998. Deadline: March 1, 1998.

Springfield Association of Life Underwriters Scholarship: Open to graduating seniors who have lost a parent through death or who have a

Christmas At Perry Lane Nursery School



SANTA & MRS. CLAUS stopped by to visit with the children and staff at the Agawam Perry Lane Nursery School a few days before Christmas. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

parent who is disabled defined by their collecting Social Security Disability benefits. Deadline: March 1, 1998.

College Club of Springfield Scholarship: A \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a girl in the Springfield area who plans to attend a four-year college. This grant is renewable each year. Recipients are chosen for their need, scholarship, leadership, and integrity. Eligibility is limited to girls in the upper fifth of their class. Deadline: March 15, 1998.

Mass. Temperance League Essay Contest: The theme for this essay contest is "Why I choose not to drink." A prize of \$125 will be awarded to the winner. Deadline: March 2, 1998.

Boston University Alumni Club of Western

Mass. Scholarship: Each year, scholarships are presented to high school seniors in Western Mass. who have been accepted by a BU school or college. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and financial need. Deadline: May 4, 1998.

Massachusetts DAR Scholarship: The objective of this scholarship is to assist worthy young men and women to acquire higher education in college or technical schools. Open to U.S. citizens who are residents of Massachusetts and who rank in the upper 10 percent of the class. Deadline: April 1, 1998.

University of Maine at Farmington Honors Scholarship.

Virginia Wesleyan Honors Scholarships.

Agawam Little League Baseball Spring Sign-Ups

Saturday, February 7th

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Captain Charles Leonard House

Main Street, Agawam Center

Registration Is \$40.00 Per Child

(Includes Raffle Tickets)

Copy Of Birth Certificate Is Needed If You Didn't
Turn One In Last Year At Sign-Ups Or To Your Coach



Umpires'
Sign-Ups
Too!

Sign-Up For:

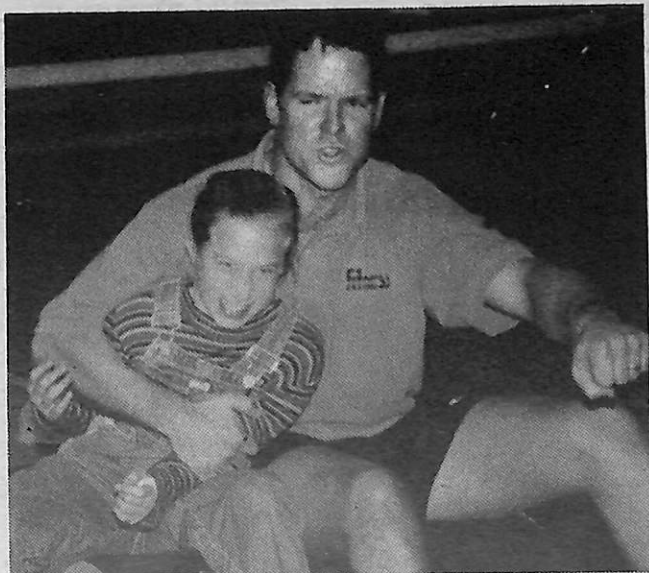
T-Ball, Instructional,

Minors And Majors

(Ages 5-12 As Of August 1st)

For More Information,

Call Peter Donah, 789-2347



FITNESS FIRST FITNESS DIRECTOR Garen Stoehr gave a "Street Wise For Kids" seminar at the club recently.

Street Wise For Kids Seminar Held By Fitness First

Fitness First Racquet & Fitness Center, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills Center, recently hosted a "Street Wise for Kids" seminar for area children ages eight and up.

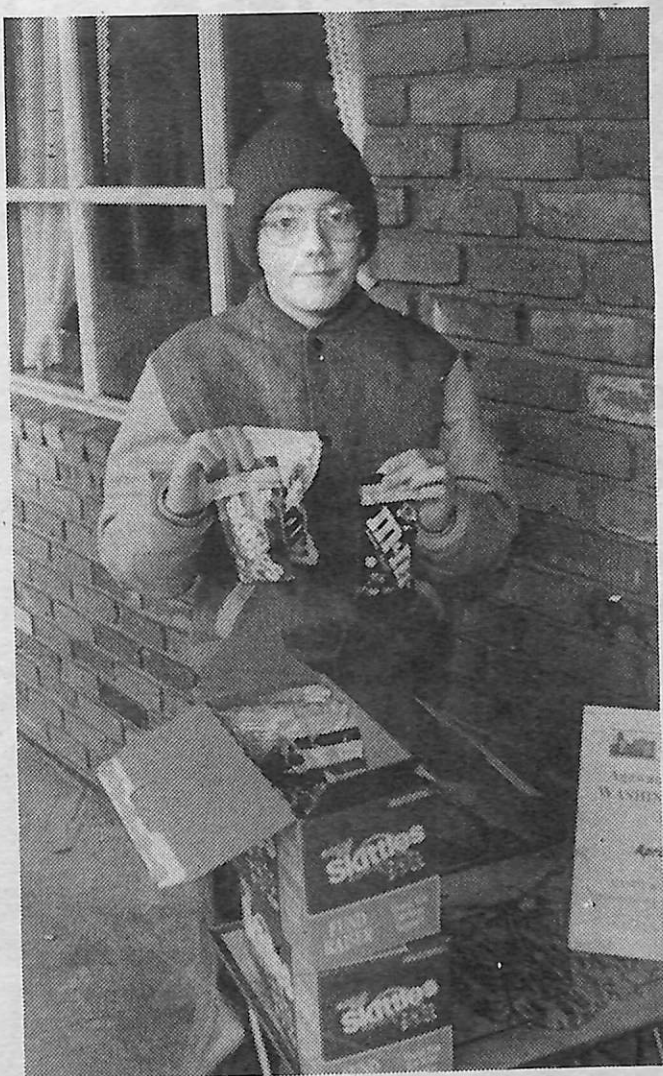
Most of the proceeds from the seminar went to the Agawam DARE unit to aid them in their efforts to combat drug abuse and child abduction.

About 20 children attended the seminar, which Fitness First's Fitness Director, Garen Stoehr, put on. Mr. Stoehr is trained in the Street Wise techniques and the children found his methods most enlightening. Heather Moffatt, a nine year-old Agawam student, commented, "I never realized that a grown-up can grab you while they are in a car!"

Mr. Stoehr demonstrated potential abduction situations and various escapes and ways in which children can avoid and/or deal with an abduction. "If just one student came away from this seminar learning something, I did my job," stated Mr. Stoehr.

A second seminar is scheduled for some time in the spring for the students that were on the waiting list. The proceeds, again, are planned to go towards DARE. If you are interested in more information on "Street Wise," please call Fitness First at 786-1460.

Fundraiser Guy...



MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADER Timothy Walker was recently selling candy to raise funds for the school's Annual Sixth Grade Trip to Washington D.C. in April. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



FITNESS FIRST PRESENTED A "Street Wise For Kids" Seminar for local children ages eight and up. Most of the proceeds from the seminar went to Agawam DARE.

Johnson & Wales Announce Locals On Fall Dean's List

Johnson & Wales University has announced the names of its students who have been named to the Dean's List for the fall term.

Local students included on the list are Christopher Hayes, 38 Chestnut Lane, Agawam (Food Service Management major); Dominic Maloni, 32 Losito Lane, Agawam (Food Service Management major); and Jason Bryant, 21 Denise Lane, Feeding Hills (Culinary Arts major).

To receive Dean's List commendation, students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or above.

Founded in 1914, Johnson & Wales University is an accredited, private institution offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in business, foodservice, hospitality, and technology.

With an enrollment of more than 11,000 students, Johnson & Wales is based in Providence, Rhode Island, and maintains campuses in Charleston, South Carolina, Norfolk, Virginia, North Miami, Florida, and Vail, Colorado.

WNEC Presents Two From Town With Degrees

Rachel H. Thomas of Agawam and Paul Giusto of Feeding Hills were among students to receive degrees from Western New England College on October 15, 1997.

Giusto received a Master of Science in Engineering Management. Thomas, the wife of Philip and mother of Brian and Scott Thomas, also of Agawam, received a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement degree.

Western New England College is a private coeducational institution located on a 185-acre suburban campus in Springfield, with an additional 16 sites throughout the Commonwealth.

The College serves full-time and part-time students with undergraduate programs in its Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering, and graduate programs in its Schools of Business, Engineering, and Law.

Western New England College Hosting High School Seniors On January 31st

Western New England College will be hosting high school seniors and their parents at an Open House from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 31st (snow date: February 1st). The event is free, but reservations must be made by calling (413) 782-1312.

High school students and their parents will be able to tour the campus, learn about residence life, and speak with faculty, staff, and current students about the College.

With its Wholistic Student Development program, which places emphasis not only on academics, but also other vital aspects of per-

Annual Auction For AHS Band Slated For Monday, Jan. 19th

The Annual Agawam High School Band Auction will be held on Monday, January 19th. It will be held once again in the Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church.

The preview will be at 5:00 p.m., and the auction will begin at 6:00 p.m. We are proud to have Rose Rossi as our auctioneer.

As in the past, we will have many donated items as well as gift certificates and items donated from local merchants.

Refreshments will be available, and there will be no buyer's premium. Anyone with questions or donations may contact Tammy Watson at the Agawam High School, 789-4488.

Donated items will be accepted at the door, and are tax-deductible.

Presentation On Heimlich Maneuver At Ag. Middle School

On Wednesday, January 21st, Mike Mercadante of the Agawam Fire Department will be doing a presentation on both the Child and Adult Heimlich Maneuver.

The presentation will take place at 7:00 p.m. before the Agawam Health Advisory Committee meeting.

The presentation and meeting are free of charge and open to the public. The meeting place is the Agawam Middle School Auditorium.

Suffield Academy Honors List

Jean H. DeWolfe, Assistant to the Headmaster, has announced that the following area students have been named to Suffield Academy's fall term honor roll:

From Agawam: Elizabeth Cowan (grade 10); Sarah Cowan (grade 11).

From Feeding Hills: Michael Albro (grade 12).

sonal growth, Western New England College offers students a unique learning environment.

Western New England College is a private, comprehensive, coeducational institution located on a 185-acre suburban campus in Springfield, MA, with an additional 19 sites throughout the Commonwealth.

The College serves its 4,500 students with undergraduate programs in its Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering, and graduate programs in its Schools of Business, Engineering, and Law.



GIRL SCOUTS

THE GIRL SCOUTS

AS GREAT AS YOU WANT TO MAKE IT

Brownie Troop 543 at Phelps School has had a busy schedule starting with a "Pool Party" August 14th to start off the new year in Scouting. They earned the "Sports & Games" Try-It. During their next meeting, they planned a trip to Camp Bonnie Brae earning a "Good Food" Try-It after a trip to Food Mart for their groceries to enjoy during their camping trip September 6th and 7th at Big House.

While on their camping trip, the Scouts made dinner for their leaders, Carol Ruehl and Hope Langone, went hiking, and had a nature scavenger hunt while learning basic jackknife safety for their "Outdoor Adventure" Try-It.

While at camp, the Scouts played many board games and practiced ball games for their "Sports & Games" Try-It.

From September 17th through October 22nd, the Scouts completed their "Movers" Try-It. They made paper mache hot air balloons, helicopter hats, and pinwheels.

In October, they went to Fini's for a Haunted Hayride and Great Pumpkin Adventure.

The rest of the fall was spent working on a "Manners" Try-It. The Scouts practiced phone skills and how to make introductions. To complete their try-it, the "happy helpers" all took on a new chore for a week at home wearing a smile.

During December, the troop had a Mother/Daughter Tea so the girls could show off their "new, improved manners." They ended their busy 1997 by Christmas caroling.

Stay tuned for more news on the busy Brownie Troop 543 from Phelps School!

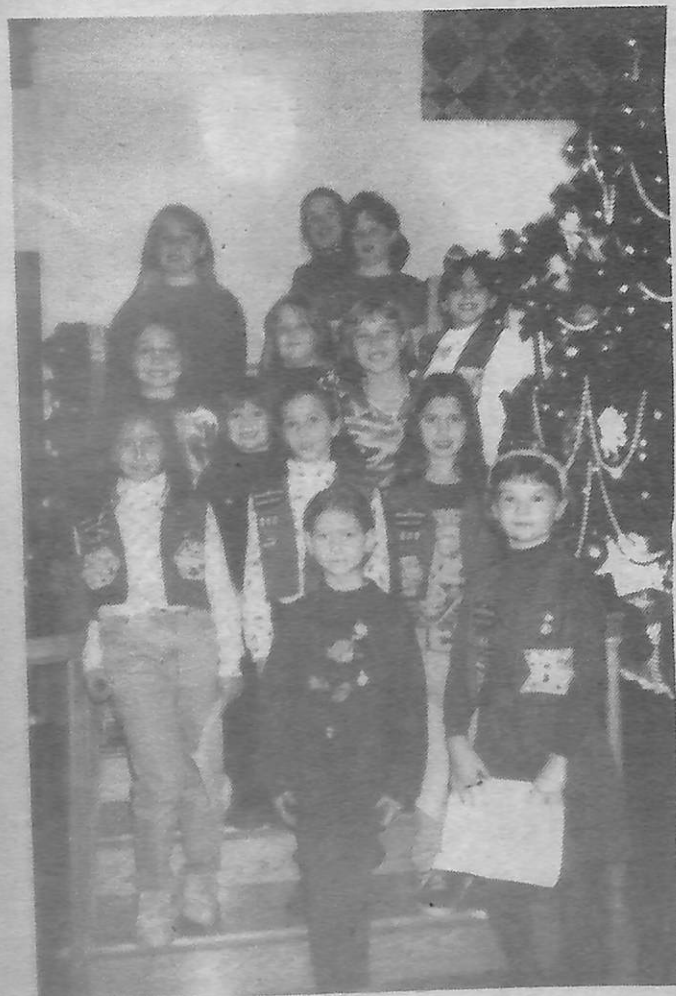


JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP 587, led by Denise Moffatt and Mary Provost, recently, completed their "bridging" ceremony. Seated - Julie Worchol, Kara Reynolds, Allison Ziemba, Kailin Symanski. Standing - Mary Provost, Laura Provost, Shelley Shively, Stephanie Midura, Heather Moffatt, Marie Iacolino, Kaitlyn Bonneville, and Denise Moffatt.

Cub Pack 77 At Springfield Falcons Game



CUB PACK 77 of St. John's Church in Agawam presented the flag and led in the saying of "The Cub Scout Promise" at "Scout Night" at a Springfield Falcons hockey game in November. Presenting the colors, from left - Ryan McNair, Scott Thomas, Michael LeGrand, David Kreps, Dan Anderson, and Jimmy Chaban.



BROWNIE TROOP 580 from Phelps School ended their 1997 school year by Christmas Caroling at the Heritage Hall Retirement and Assisted Living facilities. Bottom row, from left - Sabrina Bolly and Megan Wills. Second row - Andrea Braccialarghe, Briann Brinkman, Stacey Capelette, Lisa Trushelle, Ashley Brinkman, Ashley-Anne Wolos, Lauren Sotolotto, Meaghan Serra. Top row - Allyssa Bonavita, Christna Harbour, and Tiffany Knox.

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Sports

Agawam Vs. Amherst - Hockey...

AHS Hockey Still Putting Up Big Numbers

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

After dropping its first three games this season, the Agawam High hockey team has come back with a vengeance, winning its last four. The latest victim came Tuesday night in the form of the Amherst Hurricanes, which the Brownies smartly handled, 5-3.

"I'm not taking anything away from the teams we've played so far, but this was our first real win," Brownie Coach Fran Pycko smiled.

Agawam started its first line of Jason Malanson, flanked by Rich Feeley and Brian Pagella. Austin Kimball and Adam Sprague handled the defense. Things started out fast and even, with both clubs trying to establish some kind of dominance.

It didn't take Agawam long to take control. With 2:35 gone, Malanson took a feed on the right side (20 feet out) from Adam Sprague, and slammed the puck into the Hurricanes' net to give the Brownies a 1-0 lead.

For the Brownies (who tend to light the lamp in bunches), the next goal wasn't far behind the first one. This time, freshman forward Tony LeClair, just outside the crease on the left, wristed the puck home on the stick side of Hurricane keeper Jeff Lyons with 3:08 gone, to give Agawam a 2-0 edge. Jeff Gusek and Josh Sprague got assists.

Those two quick scores had to shock the Hurricanes, who came in with a record of 6-3-1. Pagella, Malanson, and Feeley, backchecking and forechecking well, were keeping them off their offensive game for the most part. On defense, LeClair and Sprague were picking up the Hurricane forwards in the neutral zone, further disrupting the Amherst offensive efforts.

With 7:44 to go, Andy Radwanski was called for tripping. Amherst had its first powerplay. Pycko sent Feeley, Pagella, Sprague, and Kimball out to kill it. At 6:39, Agawam keeper Chris Hern then got nailed for delay of game after he pounced on and continued to stay on the puck after a Hurricane shot. Another Brownie went to the box to serve his penalty.

For 25 seconds, the Brownies were looking at a two-man disadvantage. They killed the two-down penalty, skating only one short. But the pressure was a little too much. The Hurricanes scored with 4:20 to go, cutting Agawam's lead to 2-1.

AHS Goes Back On The Offense...

The Brownies went back on the offense immediately, as though the score against them was an insult and they had to make amends. Behind some good checking by Greg Jubinville and tough rushes led by Feeley and Pagella, the Brownies started spending the balance of the first period in the Hurricane zone.

Amherst did break free once. A right on shot from the right point at 1:14 was stopped by Hern. In the process, this put a charge into the Brownie offense.

With five seconds left, Radwanski had a breakaway on the right wing. Ten feet from the Amherst net, he put a little fake on the keeper and slid it between his legs for the third Agawam score of the period. Gusek was credited with the assist. The period ended 3-1, Brownies. They had seven shots on goal. Amherst matched that total with seven shots of its own.

Agawam came out shooting to start the second 15 minutes. Sprague just missed by six inches to the left on a blast from the point with 30 seconds gone. Two minutes later, Brian Gilhooly had an open corner but was a few inches wide on a shot from the right point. While the shots were coming, Malanson and Dave Gusek were digging in the corners, keeping the puck in the Amherst zone.

Hern made a testing save at the 11:25 mark. The action at both ends had gone up a notch, with Amherst suddenly the more aggressive team. They paid for it with a penalty at 10:43. Radwanski, Gusek, LeClair, Sprague, and Kimball, on the powerplay for Agawam, couldn't cash in as the Hurricanes' penalty killers rose to the occasion.

Agawam was back in the box with 6:59 left, courtesy of a LeClair trip. Pagella, Malanson, Kimball, and Sprague killed it nicely, not allowing Amherst even a single shot during their man advantage.

SEE HOCKEY - Page 39...

Brownies Mop Up Bombers With Ease...

Relentless AHS Girls' Hoop Put Westfield Into Orbit, 59-26

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The formula for basketball success may not be quite so simple, but some teams sure make it look that way.

Take the Agawam High girls' 59-26 win Monday night over visiting Westfield. The Brownies did it with a relentless full-court press, tough man-man defense, and ball movement right out of the textbook. The Bombers, not that bad a team, looked bad because they just didn't have the firepower to deal with that trio of weapons employed by AHS.

The Brownies started off in their full-court press. It is a deadly thing when done well. Kristen Patterson and Barbara Maloni spearheaded the deal. Westfield, a half-court team in the best of times, had to work extra hard just to get into their offense. It showed in the number of turnovers they committed early on — five with only 2:18 off the clock.

Agawam led, 15-0, at the 12:17 mark. A lot of it had to do with a lights out, 7-9 shooting performance. Westfield, still trying to figure out the press, had managed only three field goal attempts. Maloni (17 points) has 12 of those with 6:25 gone. Maloni, playing forward when Patterson plays point guard, can also bring the ball up when Patterson takes a rest.

Maloni was showing off her double-header talent. At one point in the early going, she hit seven deuces in a row on drives and mid-distance jumpers.

Part of the Brownies' success on offense has to do with moving the ball around quickly and accurately. They took advantage of the Westfield man-to-man defense with some expert snap passes by Patterson, Melissa Cote, Sheri Benton,

Katie Shannon, and Shauna Hadden. That spread the lanes and led to many Brownie drives through them.

Patterson (nine points) canned a hoop on a drive and sank the ensuing foul shot to put Agawam up, 21-7. By then, the Brownies were having their way with the Bomber defense and were shooting 10-16 from the floor.

Conte Calls Off The All-Out Attack...

Patterson popped a three at 5:40 to make it 28-9. Then Coach Lou Conte called off the all-out attack. And the Brownies fell back into their standard, no-pressing, man-to-man half-court defense. There was no doubt the damage had been done. Westfield had been served notice.

As the half wore down, Conte put in his second team: Kara Tierney, Hadden, Laura Bucalo, Shannon, and Benton. They served some notice of their own: that as a unit, they can play and use this time to gain some valuable experience for down the road.

The half ended with the Brownies in command, 33-11. Part of the impending rout had to do with the Bombers' inability to protect the rock. They committed 17 turnovers, of which Agawam managed eight points. The Brownies also went 15-28 from the field, as opposed to Westfield's 5-14. Patterson and senior two guard Amber Conte chipped in with a trey apiece. Even though the Brownies had 12 turnovers in the half, their tight defense allowed Westfield only two points off them.

SEE GIRLS' HOOP - 39...

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GIRLS' HOOP - from Page 38...

Again, Agawam stopped its full-court pressure in the second half. But Westfield still had trouble protecting the ball. They would have nine more turnovers, giving up nine points, including a three by Shannon (three points).

At the 9:50 mark, Agawam was up 49-13. Finally realizing they were a step too slow and not taking care of business, the Bombers switched to a 2-1-2 zone. Agawam's second team came in with the score 56-23 and mopped up.

Brownies Are At 7-0...

The win gave the Brownies a 7-0 slate to that point. Patterson admitted later that they haven't really been tested so far this year.

"No, our practices have been harder than our games. But we know the tough ones are coming up. And we are getting ready, both mentally and physically, for them," she smiled.

At this writing, they were getting ready to play undefeated Valley Wheel foe Longmeadow. Then they will be on the road again on Friday night, January 16th, for a battle against another Valley Wheel denizen — traditional rival West Springfield.

BROWNIE NOTES:

The win Monday night was the 201st of Lou

AHS Frosh & JV Basketball Update

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' junior varsity basketball team was locked in a good one before the varsity game on Friday, January 9th, falling 62-56 in overtime to the young Lancers.

The freshman boys lost two straight games in the past week. On January 6th, Comp beat them, 75-35.

They fell again to Longmeadow January 9th, 84-55. In that game, **A.J. Martucci** had 23 points.

However, on the plus side, the frosh then went on to beat Putnam, 46-35, to raise their record to 3-4. **Matt Dion** had 12 points, while A.J. Martucci rang up nine.

The Agawam JV girls lost to the young Westfield Bombers, 42-33.

Jill Gendron had eight points, and **Jen Lyman** chipped in with six for the young Brownies.

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Conte's 12-year career coaching the varsity girls. He had only 49 losses to that point. He reached the 200 milestone in their 68-26 win over Central a few days earlier. He didn't want a big thing made out of it.

"This program isn't about me. It's about the kids and how they do as a team and what they learn while they're here," he said.

BROWNIE INDIVIDUAL STATS:

Maloni — 17 points, 7-13 fgs, 3-4 fts, 1 off reb, 2 def rebs; Patterson — nine points, 4-8 fgs, including 1 three, 7 steals, 1 off reb, 1 def reb; Bertone-Gross — 7 points, 2-4 fgs, 3-4 fts, 2 off rebs, 3 def rebs; Cote — 6 points, 3-4 fgs, 1 off reb; Conte — 5 points, 2-5 fgs, including 1 three, 1 def reb; Benton — 4 points, 2-6 fgs, 1 reb; Tierney — 3 points, 1-3 fgs, 1-2 fts, 2 off rebs, 2 def rebs; Shannon — 3 points, 1-5 fgs, 1 three; Bucalo — 3 points, 1-1 fgs, 1-3 fts, 1 off reb, 1 def reb.

AGAWAM TEAM STATS:

24-48 fgs (50 percent) plus 3 threes; 8-12 fts (66 percent); 24 rebounds, 9 off, 15 def; 19 turnovers; points allowed off turnovers — 2.

WESTFIELD TEAM STATS:

11-34 fgs (32 percent); 4-15 (26 percent); 15 rebounds, 9 off, 6 def; 26 turnovers; points allowed off turnovers — 17.

AHS HOCKEY - from Page 38...

That defensive momentum translated into a Brownie score with 5:14 left on the clock. Kimball got it, unassisted, from 20 feet out on the right point to the short side, giving Agawam a 4-1 lead.

As we said, the Brownies score in bunches. Less than 30 seconds later, Jubinville skated through the left point, backed in, and flipped a backhander over Lyons' right shoulder for a 5-1 Brownie lead. Tony Kosinski got the assist.

Amherst scored with 4:13 to go on a shot off a crossing pass. Hern had no chance. The period ended with the Brownie keeper making a heads-up save on a Hurricane blast from 15 feet out in front. The Brownies, comfortably up, 5-2, had six shots on the Amherst net. Amherst answered with seven.

The Hurricanes' Offensive Frame Of Mind...

Amherst, perhaps with a sense of urgency, came out for the third in an offensive frame of mind. For two minutes, they buzzed the Brownie zone. Only some good backchecking by LeClair and Radwanski kept the Hurricanes at bay.

Agawam got another penalty (they would have seven in all) with 3:16 gone. It was killed with little fanfare. Amherst drew a penalty of its own a little less than two minutes later after being frustrated on the powerplay. But the Brownies could do nothing with the opportunity.

There was 5:52 left in the game when Amherst managed another score. The puck crossed in front of Hern, who lost it in the gang fight going on in front of his net. He never saw it go by him.

The Brownie defense stiffened after that incident and preserved the win. The Brownies had three final-period shots on net for a game total of 16. Amherst had five and a total of 20.

"We've cut down on the mistakes we made early in the season," Pycko offered. "We'll be playing some quality teams now, who make you pay if you don't stay focused. Two of their three goals tonight were the result of lapses on our part."

However, the coach was pleased with his club, which saw its record rise to 5-3.

AHS Girls Still Seeking Elusive First Win Of Swimming Season

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' swim team is still looking for its first win of the season. On Tuesday afternoon, the locals thought they might have found it in a meet against Holyoke Catholic. But it remained elusive, as Catholic won, 104-65.

Brownie Coach Kim Scofield noted that in this one, her team (already thin on swimmers) was down to 11. But the small numbers did not mean a small effort. Once again, her kids — improving all the time — left it all in the pool. The medley relay saw Kelly Robinson, Shaunnassy Egan, Shannon Costa, and Brenna McGinn take a second with a time of 2:18:56. The coach noted that the four girls comprised a new team in the event.

Freshman Rachel Morris grabbed a third in the 200 free with a time of 2:24:32.

The 200 IM saw Danielle DeForge come in third, clocking a 3:02:99 in the process.

McGinn sped to a third in the 50 free, clocking a 29:43. Rebecca Morytko finished fourth at 32:88. "I'm very pleased with Rebecca's progress," Scofield said. "She will only get better as she gains more experience."

AHS Had No Divers In This Meet...

Agawam, because of injuries, had no divers in the meet. But new diving Coach Kevin Smith has both the girls and the boys involved in the event, which had been missing from their repertoire in the early season.

Egan took a third in the fly with a time of 1:19:34. Her teammate, Alicyn Siano, came in fifth at 1:22:47.

McGinn grabbed second in the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:09:73. Also in that event, freshman Lisa Niedziela swam a personal best 1:16:05 for a fourth-place finish.

The 500 relay produced a second-place finish for the team of McGinn, Morris, Siano, and Robinson. Their time was 2:04:13. Agawam also took a fourth in the event, with the team of Sarah Bates, Niedziela, DeForge, and Morytko coming in at 2:21:06.

Costa was second in the backstroke at 1:11:15. Morris finished third with a 1:15:50.

DeForge was second in the breaststroke with a time of 1:25:26. Sarah Bates, a sophomore, took third in 1:32:52. Her sister, senior Darcy Bates, came in fourth in a time of 1:33:31.

Morytko, Siano, Egan, and Costa took a second in the 400 relay, swimming the distance in 4:27:82. DeForge, Niedziela, Sarah Bates, and Morris came in third with a time of 5:08:70.

Scofield felt all the kids did well. She singled out Morris, Costa, and Morytko. "All of them are swimming better each time out. They're freshmen and confidence is a big part of their learning process."

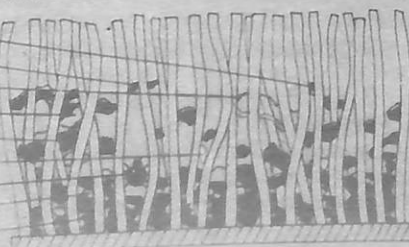
The boys were also in action. They fell to Catholic, 62-18. One bright spot for them was in diving, where Nate Adamski took a first with a score of 103.5. Their record stand at 1-6.

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Shaunessy Egan's Star On The Rise For Agawam High Girls' Swimming

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Shaunessy Egan is one of the bright stars on the Agawam High girls' swimming team. Recently, she took some time out to talk about herself and her time at AHS.

She's a 17 year-old junior who will be 18 next September 23rd. Shaunessy has been at Agawam High for three years. Her course load is general college prep. She's taking chemistry, American history, American literature, algebra II, and second level child development.

History is her favorite course. "I like it because it's exciting," she smiled.

She has two top teachers; Joseph Fitzgerald (history) and Margo Poulin (drama, English).

It's not too early to start thinking about college. Shaunessy isn't sure yet just where she'll go. But she knows it will probably be a place in a big city, preferably Boston or New York. "I would like to major in either speech pathology or Special Education," she said.

Her main sport at AHS is swimming. Her strength is the backstroke. However, she notes that the coaches are working hard with her on the butterfly. Still, she admits to liking the backstroke the best.

1997 Tournament The Most Memorable

So far her most memorable sports moment was the 400 freestyle relay at the 1997 Western Mass. Tournament. "We only finished 10th, but it was an experience. We all had a good time," she noted.

She feels this year's team, while still searching for its first win, is improving all the time. "We're getting more focused. Our individual times are coming down. And we are into every meet. We all pull hard for each other," she said.

Shaunessy knows, as do her teammates, that lack of numbers hurt them. "We're used to that now, so we just swim harder," she noted.

Shaunessy likes Italian food, especially spaghetti.

Yellow is her favorite color.

In the wheels department, a Volkswagen Jetta is the car that catches her eye.

When she wants to relax, she does it at the Holyoke Mall. Sometimes she frequents the Ultra Zone there, which is a place full of laser games.

She likes to wear casual clothes - sweaters, jeans, and clogs. "I like to shop at the Gap. I guess I have expensive taste. At least that's what my parents tell me," she laughed.

Shaunessy liked just about any type of music, save for one. "I can't get into country music," she admitted.



AHS JUNIOR SHAUNESSY EGAN

"Seinfeld" is her top TV show. "Some of the topics they take on are really funny," she said. She also admitted that it will be sad when it goes off the air at the end of this season.

"Grease," starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John (from the 1970's), is her favorite movie. "There are so many films that have nothing but violence in them. 'Grease' is fun and upbeat. It makes me happy," she smiled.

Her mother's name is Doreen. Peter is her dad. She has a sister, Kyleigh, who is in the eighth grade at the Junior High. Kyleigh is into basketball and soccer.

"...A Great Teacher"

Shaunessy looks up to several people. One is AHS swimming Coach Kim Scofield. "She is a great teacher who has time for everybody." Her parents are also right up there, as well. "They have been very supportive of me and my swimming career."

Shaunessy notes that she has a nerve condition in her left foot that can be painful. Occasionally, her big toe sends signals to her brain, saying that her foot is broken. "It's not, but that's the way it feels, like fractured bones," she admitted. "They've been very understanding about it and have gone all over, seeking treatment for me. Hopefully, the condition will go away as I get older."

When her days at AHS are done, Shaunessy would like to be remembered as a "pretty good swimmer." She also hopes people will see her as a positive person who tried to keep everyone's spirits high.

Boys' Basketball...

Hard Win Over Putnam Puts AHS On Track

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' basketball team had a road trip Monday night to Putnam High School. It's always tough to play there, but the Brownies (who were slumping with a three-game losing streak going in) sucked it up and came out with a 61-56 victory.

"This was a big one for us. We're back on a positive track," Brownie Coach Gary Grumoli smiled. He pointed out that the team found some offense that had been missing for most of the early season.

"We were strong inside, with all our big men taking it to the hole," he noted. Indeed they were. Center Dave Strole had his best game of the season with a career-high 12 points and some timely rebounds.

The coach also singled out the play of center/forward Jeff Lyman (seven points). "Jeff continues to improve with every game. He's our most versatile player, both inside and outside." Grumoli also gave forward Brian Gallagher (11 points) a pat on the back. "He's starting to come around and play like we all know he can." Gallagher, some folks might remember, was operating on a sore sprained ankle suffered in the West Springfield football game back on Thanksgiving morning.

The Brownies also had an excellent night from the stripe, canning 20-30. "We took care of the ball. And we made better offensive decisions than we'd been making in our earlier games. We were able to dictate the flow of the game," Grumoli noted.

They also were able to work their half-court game, which was well run by Bryan O'Quinn (18 points) and Jay Hanscom (11 points). "We are a half-court team, plain and simple. Once we establish that in a game, we are halfway there because it helps with our overall balance and consistency," Grumoli pointed out.

The win raises the Brownies' record to 3-4. The Beavers dropped to 1-6.

AHS Girls Fall To Turners In Swimming

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' swim team, still looking for its first win of the season, fell last Friday, 118-65, to visiting Turners Falls. Turners is a good team. The Brownies showed well as they continue to improve as a team with each meet.

The 200 medley relay saw Agawam enter two teams. Shannon Costa, Rachel Morris, Shaunessy Egan, and Brenna McGinn went in lane three (a speed lane). Hilary King, Danielle DeForge, Alicyn Siano, and Kelly Robinson drew lane five.

Costa started out fast on the first lap and led by a hand at the 25 meter mark. The Brownie team in lane three faltered a bit, but thanks to strong swims by Egan (fly) and anchor McGinn (free), they pulled out a third-place finish. Lane five took a fourth.

The girls grabbed another top-three spot in the 200 freestyle. Robinson, in lane three, came in third at 2:12:97.

The 200 individual medley consists of the fly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. Siano took a third. She was swimming strong in fourth at the 150-meter mark, and a big kick got her a top-three spot. Freshman Rachel Morris came in fifth.

Agawam has a good one in the 50 freestyle, Brenna McGinn. She didn't disappoint, winning the event in a time of 28:85. Her teammate, Kelly Robinson, came in fourth.

The diving saw something new for the girls — an entrant! Sophomore Lauren Kunkler walked the plank. She finished with a score of 103.895. While not good enough to win, her score had to be encouraging. Agawam needs some kind of dive team (both boys and girls) to have a better chance in their meets.

An Exciting Contest...

The 100 fly is an exciting contest. The Brownie girls always finish somewhere in the top three. It was no different in this meet. McGinn, a fly specialist, was first at the 25 meter mark. She was still first at 50 meters. It was a neck-and-neck battle to the wire on the gun lap. McGinn just got edged by a hand at the end, finishing second at

1:12:51. Siano, swimming lane five, took third with a 1:12:56.

In the 100 free, Sparver managed a fourth. Senior Darcey Bates, in lane five, took fifth.

The marathon event, the 500 free, saw Egan swimming well the entire way, taking second in a time of 6:05:40. DeForge, also making progress, came in fifth.

The Brownie team of McGinn, Morris, Sparver, and Robinson (swimming anchor) went out of lane three in the 200 relay. The team of Lisa Niedziela, Kunkler, DeForge, and Siano were in lane five. In the speed lane, McGinn went out fast. She led by an arm at the 25 and 50 meter mark. Morris kept the margin close with her 50 meters. At the 100 meter mark, the Brownies in lane three had a good grip on first place. Over in lane five, the other team was fast on the heels of their mates. The lane three girls were in control. Robinson swam a strong anchor leg to seal the first-place spot in a time of 1:59:69. The lane five team took a third at 1:59:81.

The 100 backstroke some one of the Brownie girls' rising stars again put in a good effort. Shannon Costa was in the speed lane. Her teammate, McGinn, was in the choppy number five hole. Both were out in first at the 25 meter mark. They were ahead of everyone at 50 meters. Costa opened up a one-length lead over McGinn at 75 meters. Costa had the event on the final lap, finishing first at 1:11:40. McGinn was close behind, taking second with a time of 1:11:47. Morris, also swimming in the event for the Brownies, came in sixth.

The breaststroke, again another event in which the Agawam girls always seem to take a top three, saw DeForge do just that. She was first at the 50 meter mark. At 75 meters she faded a bit, but still took a third with 1:23:97. The winning time was 1:23:66.

The final event was the 400 relay. The girls had lost this meet, but they were not about to quit. They never have all year long. The speed lane saw Hilary King, Sparver, Egan, and Costa getting

ready. The chop lane had Katie Gallagher, Niedziela, Bates, and Kunkler on the platform.

The third-lane Brownies were in third at the 150 meter mark. Lane five was in fourth. The anchor lap, for the lane three team, was a drag race to the finish. Costa, swimming with everything she had, managed to steal a second-place spot. Their time was 4:29:34, against the winning numbers of 4:28:60. The Brownies in lane five finished five.

The AHS boys also swam. Their meet was a mini one inside the bigger meet. Both the Turners Falls boys and the Brownie boys only had a few entrants. Agawam came in with only two, Nate Adamski and Matt Francis. Turners had four. But the Brownie boys, minus Brendan Kilrain (a sore rotator cuff) and Charlie Roberts, won their first meet of the year, 22-21.

They did it swimming against the clock. Adamski did it in the 200 free with a time of 2:17:59. He also finished second in the 50 free at 26:81. Francis clocked a 1:20:56 in the 100 free, once again swimming against the clock.

The Boys Also Had A Diver...

They also did it in diving. For the first time this season, just like the girls, they had a diver - Adamski. He took first with a score of 143.20. In his seven dives of different degrees of difficulty, he recorded a high of six and a low of three. He was one happy guy when it was over. "We got a diving coach a couple of weeks ago. I wanted to try it. I like diving," he smiled. He also pointed out that if he gets a diving score of 140.00 or better in his next two meets, he'll qualify for the Western Mass. meet. He never dove before on the varsity level.

Coach Chris Johnson commented that the kids he had stepped up for the win. He laughed, "I'm on my way to our inauguration ball. (He is also the mayor of Agawam.) If I could stay for the whole meet, I'd give my kids a free swim after it's over. They deserve it."

Girls' Skiing...

Brownie Girls Place 2nd In Division Meet At Berkshire East

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' ski team opened its 1998 season with a second-place finish in the giant slalom Tuesday evening at Berkshire East. Westfield took the top spot in the B Division meet. Coach Jim Graveline was pleased with the girls, who might have finished on top, save for some first meet jitters.

Two of his kids managed top 10 finishes. Senior Jody Bulat was second in the division with a time of 29:84. Another senior and a newcomer to the team, Camilla Ringvold, grabbed the ninth spot in the division with a time of 34:48.

There are eight spots on the team to compete in the meets. In this one, the number one position saw Bulat do her thing. Jessica Ferris skied out of the number two gate and placed fifth on the team with a 39:38.

Angela Tassinari was at number three. Unfortunately, she fell and didn't finish. Michelle Clauson also fell skiing in the fourth spot.

Ringvold, an American Inter-Cultural exchange student from Norway, went out of the number five gate to grab her ninth spot in the Division. "We're very pleased with her. We see some great things coming from Camilla this season," Graveline noted.

Senior Jen Thibodeau, usually a very steady skier, took a tumble on her run out of the number six gate. The coach felt she might have had first race jitters.

Sophomore Kelly St. Laurent, skiing out of the seventh gate, took third place on the varsity with a 36:03.

Another sophomore, Caroline Scherpa, came in fourth on the varsity with a time of 37:44.

The Coach Has A "Good" Problem...

The coach has a problem, but a good one when it comes to the varsity. "We can only field eight skiers in a meet. We have 10 quality girls who will be competing for a spot week in and week out. We'll definitely be in the hunt for a title," he said.

The junior varsity also skied. They had four spots in the competition. Laura Charest, a sophomore, went out of the number one gate and finished first with a 33:58, which was better than some of the varsity times (something the coach noticed right away).

Courtney Adamczyk, a freshman, took second out of the second spot at 42:12. It was her first-ever GS race.

Amy Jensen skied at number three and came in third on the JV's at 44:16.

Junior Kelly Cortis was in the fourth spot and came in fourth with a time of 45:48. Cortis gave the team a scare after they got back to the High School. She felt weak and dizzy and had to be rushed to the hospital. No one is sure what was wrong with her.

The coach, who accompanied his skier to the emergency room, said that after she spent some time there, Cortis was conscious and riding around in a wheelchair.

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Superior Shooting, Torrid Press Puts Longmeadow Hoop Over AHS Boys

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

One thing was quite evident last Friday evening in Agawam High's basketball battle at Longmeadow. The Lancers stubbornly stuck to their game plan. The Brownies, on the other hand, had their's tossed out the back door early on. That lack of direction led to a 71-49 Longmeadow victory.

Basically, Longmeadow was determined to get the ball down low where their big men, 6'4", 240-pound Greg Krill (16 points) and 6'3", 230-pound Jim Toye (12 points, 14 rebounds), could hammer the Brownies. Agawam was tall, maybe taller in the front court. However, they didn't have the bulk to move the wide bodies.

Power forward Eric Melbourne could have helped there. Unfortunately, he was among the spectators, nursing a sprained ankle suffered in practice a few days earlier. Also, Longmeadow would press on defense for most of the game. Agawam is usually decent dealing with the board work, both offensively and defensively. But the press, as it has in the past, threw them off the dime.

"We are not a 97-foot team. We can do it, sometimes. It's the half-court game that determines our success, though. They wouldn't let us get into that situation," Brownie Coach Gary Grumoli said.

Man-To-Man Defense

Both teams started out in a man-to-man defense. Both teams pressed early as well. The Brownies were trying to double up on the ball outside. When they dropped off a man, the low post opened up. Longmeadow took advantage of that.

Agawam led only once in the game, 3-0 with 1:30 gone. At the start, they were shooting well, 4-6 from the field with five minutes off the clock. But so were the Lancers at 8-12.

It was the press that drove the Brownies bananas. At 9:08, they had five turnovers, two of which the Lancers converted into hoops. At 8:27, the Brownies were shooting 5-10 from the field. Longmeadow was 8-18, mostly because the Agawam defense was banging toe-to-toe underneath.

Things were getting sloppy on both sides with 7:42 left. No one was setting up in the half-court. Longmeadow didn't need to, because they were finding success in the run and gun. Agawam had no clue because they couldn't hit the weak side pass to break the pressure of the press.

Longmeadow led, 21-14, with 7:23 to go. It was playground basketball at its best. One thing was evident. Agawam was getting blocked out underneath. The malestrom of Lancers' body-banging was wearing them down.

But if you like speed in your basketball brew, this one was for you. Agawam did not go away because two Agawam playground guys, Bryan O'Quinn (15 points) and Jay Hanscom (14 points) ran the floor stride-for-stride with the Lancer guards to keep things close. A deuce by O'Quinn, a deuce by Hanscom, and a trey by O'Quinn tied it up 21-all at 5:57.

Longmeadow went up 27-23 with 4:50 left. O'Quinn got three back on a drive for a deuce and an ensuing foul shot after the Lancer defense undressed him on the effort. It was 27-26, Longmeadow. With the score 29-26, Hanscom drove the lane and collected a deuce. The Brownies, working hard and never thinking they were out of it, only trailed 33-30 at the half. They'd shot 10-24 (41 percent) from the field and 3-5 (60 percent) from the stripe for the first 16 minutes. The Lancers came in at 13-31 (41 percent) and 7-15 (46 percent). Agawam's 10 turnovers (as opposed to five for the Lancers) and the six points they pro-

duced for Longmeadow was the difference.

Perhaps the Brownies discussed a halfcourt offense in the locker room. But what they wanted was not anything like what they got when the second half fired up. The Lancers came out of the box running.

With 1:12 gone, they went up 37-30. Then, 1:30 later, thanks to three straight AHS turnovers and six points due to those miscues, the Brownies were looking at the short end of a 43-30 score. Agawam got its first field goal after 2:55 had clicked off the clock. At 12:40, the Brownies were 1-3 from the field. Longmeadow had gone 6-9.

Locals' Plight Continues

Perhaps the Brownies' plight could best be described by an incident that went down early in the second half. O'Quinn was inbounding the ball from the baseline under the Brownie hoop. O'Quinn lofted a high pass downcourt. It was intended for a teammate breaking for the hoop. It was intercepted by a ceiling rafter and went over to the Lancers. On the subsequent inbound pass guard Rick Agnew drained a trey. To that point (10:46), Longmeadow had recorded 11 points off five Agawam turnovers to lead 53-34.

Both teams were in a scrambling man-to-man defense. The Lancers, however, were able to break the Brownie defense and hit from just about every spot on the floor inside the three-point stripe. Unfortunately for Agawam, the lid had been clamped tightly on the hoop. With 8:45 left, they were 3-10 from the field as opposed to 11-16 for Longmeadow. And it wasn't for lack of trying. Hanscom and O'Quinn continually drove the lane. Jeff Lyman (8 points), despite giving away the pounds underneath, worked in for shots that just wouldn't fall.

With 3:54 to go, Longmeadow had its largest lead of the game, 68-45. They were simply white hot in the field goal department, draining 19-23 to that point. Agawam was totally stone cold at 3-14. Longmeadow would end up outscoring Agawam, 38-19 in the second half.

"Running It Up?..."

At this point, some of the faithful began to get a mite edgy. Longmeadow was still in its press when falling back into a halfcourt defense would have done the job at that point. The foul odor known as "running it up" began to pervade the Lancers' gym. At any level, it is a bush thing to do. Because at every level, people have long memories.

Later, a dejected Grumoli noted that a prime reason the roof caved in was the fact that the team wasn't make good decisions on offense.

Agawam's record fell to 2-4. This was their Valley Wheel opener. Longmeadow, also playing its first Wheel contest, rose to 3-3, 1-0.

BROWNIE INDIVIDUAL STATS: O'QUINN - 15 points, 4-7 fg's plus a three, 6-7 fts, 1 def reb; HANSCOM - 14 points, 5-15 fgs, 4-6 fts, 2 def rebs; LYMAN - 8 points, 2-5 fgs, 4-4 fts, 1 def reb, 2 off rebs; PEDRAZA - 6 points, 3-8 fgs, 0-3 fts, 2 off rebs; STROLE - 4 points, 2-4 fgs, 1 off reb, 3 def rebs; ALBANO - 2 points, 1-2 fts, 0-2 fts, 3 def rebounds; WHITE - 0-5 fgs, 1 def reb; ANDERSON - 0-4 fgs, 0-2 fts, 1 def reb; FEDERICO - 0-1 fgs, 2 off rebs.

BROWNIE TEAM STATS: FIELD GOALS - 17-50 (34 percent) plus one 3. FREE THROWS - 14-27 (51 percent). REBOUNDS - 21, 6 off, 15 def. TURNOVERS - 15; points allowed off TURNOVERS - 19.

LONGMEADOW TEAM STATS: FIELD GOALS - 28-65 (44 percent) plus 1 three. FREE THROWS - 14-25 (56 percent). REBOUNDS - 38, 14 off, 22 def. TURNOVERS - 8; points allowed off TURNOVERS - 2.

Ski Privilege Book Available To Help WMass Lung Association

Skiers can fight asthma while they have fun skiing downhill with the **Ski Privilege Book**, available from the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts.

The Ski Privilege Book offers **free or reduced-price skiing** at nine downhill ski areas in Western Massachusetts.

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Every year thousands of people are reached through the American Lung Association's educational programs.

The 1997-98 Ski Privilege Book participating areas are: *Jiminy Peak Resort; Mt. Tom Ski Area; Butternut Ski Area; Berkshire East Ski Area; Catamount Ski Area; Blandford Ski Area; Otis Ridge Ski Area; Bousquet Ski Area; Wachusett Mountain Ski Area.*

The **Ski Privilege Book** is available for **\$30 per book**. Please call the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts at (413) 737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA to order or for more information.

Check our classified pages today!!!

Baywest Glaciers Win Squirt Tournament Over Thanksgiving

The Baywest Glaciers recently participated in a Thanksgiving weekend Tournament in Sheffield, Massachusetts. They upset the hometown team by winning four straight games to become tournament champions in the Squirt level.

The Glaciers began their winning streak on Friday night first playing the hometown Berkshire Rattlers. Baywest was first to get on the board when Johnny Bourassa shot the puck past the Rattlers' goalie. Mike Woods got credit for the assist.

With one second to go in the first period, Bourassa scored again on a play set up by Jeremy Rogalski to make it 2-0. Berkshire scored the only goal in the second period, making it 2-1. Berkshire tied it up at 6:13 in the third period, but just 30 seconds later, Baywest got the lead back when Mike Woods tucked it in the net with Bourassa getting the assist. The defense remained tough and goalie Sarah Bishop was outstanding in net with 14 saves.

Next, the Glaciers went on to beat North Berkshire with a score of 3-0. Mike Landry scored the first Baywest goal at 7:47 in the first period, assisted by Josh Edwards and Steve Woods.

T.J. Hamilton scored at 1:42 in the first to make it 2-0. Tyler Bokuniewicz got the assist. Hamilton scored again in the second to make the final score 3-0 (assisted by Mike Woods).

In the third tournament game, Steve Woods was first to put Baywest on the board in the first period. Fifteen seconds later, Millbrook tied it up but that would be the only goal that Sarah Bishop would give up. Eric Cassidy scored after receiving a nice pass from Mike Landry.

T.J. Hamilton flipped the puck up over the goalie's stick with the assist going to Mike Woods. Johnny Bourassa scored the next two goals, the first assisted by Hamilton and the latter was unassisted. The final score was 5-1.



MEMBERS OF THE BAYWEST GLACIERS won a squirt tournament in Sheffield, Mass. with four straight victories. The team is coached by Tom Bokuniewicz, Val Partyka, and Dave Ciborowski.

Lastly, on Sunday, the Glaciers returned to play in the championship game against the hometown Berkshire Rattlers again. The Rattlers came out looking for revenge and scored the first two goals.

The Glaciers regrouped in the second period coming on strong with three goals. Mike Woods scored the first two Baywest goals, one unassisted, and the other assisted by Steve Woods.

Steve Woods scored the next three goals, assisted by Mike Landry, Josh Edwards, and

Johnny Bourassa. The Baywest defense of Alex Ciborowski, Jeremy Rogalski, Mike Landry, and Tyler Bokuniewicz were awesome in breaking up many would-be plays and keeping the puck out of their zone.

Sarah Bishop was a key player in goal as the final score of this game was 5-3. Baywest coaches Tom Bokuniewicz, Val Partyka, and Dave Ciborowski were very proud of the perseverance, outstanding passing, and the constant teamwork that occurred throughout the tournament. Congratulations, team!

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Bay West Panthers Beat Easthampton, Tie Ludlow 2-2

On Saturday, January 10th, the Bay West Panthers (Division B Squirt) traveled to Williston Rink in Easthampton to play Nonotuck Valley.

The game started with both teams playing mostly at center ice dumping the puck into the other's zone. The Panthers came close on two occasions. David Suchy hit the post on a shot and Anthony Santinello was stopped on a breakaway.

But the Panthers found the back of the net within a minute into the second period as Jon Wagner scored with the assists going to Mike O'Neil and Matt Woodward. Jon Wagner then scored his second goal of the game on a perfect pass from Ryan Harlow to give Bay West a 2-0 lead.

Nonotuck Valley kept putting pressure on, but with the fine defense by Ed Gaiser, Matt Woodward, Joey Zmuda, and Matt Footit along with some excellent saves by goaltender Tony Boido, the Panthers kept the shutout intact.

Ed Gaiser then scored for Bay West to extend the lead to 3-0 on a wrist shot from the point with the assist going to Ryan Harlow. The Panthers didn't stop there as Ed Gaiser again scored on a blazing wrist shot from the slot into the top right corner to make the score 4-0. Ryan Harlow assisted on this goal, also.

The third period started with Bay West continuing to put on the pressure, both offensively and defensively. Tony Boido came up with a huge save on a Nonotuck Valley breakaway. Ryan Harlow scored a shorthanded goal on a fine pass from Mike Brouillette to increase the Panther lead to 5-0.

But this Nonotuck Valley team would not give up as they finally scored with 2:58 left in the game to spoil the Bay West shutout. Adam Corbin finished off the scoring on a nice assist from Anthony Santinello to give the Panthers a 6-1 win.

On Sunday, the Panthers traveled to Blunt Arena in Springfield to face Ludlow. The game started with both sides having excellent scoring opportunities but the goaltenders on both teams came up with the big saves.

Adam Corbin was stopped cold on a breakaway by the Ludlow goaltender, but Jon Wagner broke the ice scoring on a rebound from Mike Brouillette to give Bay West a 1-0 lead.

Ludlow continued putting on the offensive pressure but the excellent goaltending of Tony Boido kept Ludlow off the scoreboard at that point. Ludlow finally scored on a rebound to tie the game at 1-1 with only two seconds left in the period.

The second period started with Jon Wagner putting the Panthers back on top with his second goal of the game with the assist going to David Suchy. Bay West continued to put on the pressure as Anthony Santinello hit the post and at the other end of the ice as a Ludlow player hit the crossbar on their scoring attempt.

Ludlow did not knot the score at 2-2 with about five minutes left in the period. The final score of the game was 2-2, giving the Panthers a win and a tie for the weekend.

Agawam Piranhas Have Strong Meet In Win Over West Springfield

The Agawam Piranhas swim team won against the West Springfield team by a score of 471-350 on December 20, 1997 at the West Springfield High School. The results included:

Girls 8 & Under:

The team of Stephanie Scavotto, Taryn Dooley, Caitlin Hurley, and Julie Gorman placed first in the 100-yard freestyle relay.

Taryn Dooley, first in 25-yard freestyle. Julie Gorman, first, and Stephanie Scavotto, second in 25-yard butterfly. Julie Gorman, first, and Stephanie Scavotto, third in 50-yard freestyle. Taryn Dooley, second in 25-yard backstroke. Caitlin Hurley, second in 25-yard breaststroke.

Boys 8 & Under:

The team of Zachary Demers, Adam Deliefde, Shaun Bruso, and Anthony Lee placed first in the 100-yard medley relay.

Shaun Bruso, first in 100-yard individual medley. The team of Daniel Demers, Antoine Mathes, Zachary Demers, and Andrew Ardolino placed second in the 100-yard freestyle relay.

Adam Deliefde, second, and Daniel Demers, third in 25-yard freestyle. Shaun Bruso, first in 25-yard butterfly. Anthony Lee, first in 50-yard freestyle. Zachary Demers, second, and Andrew Ardolino, third in 25-yard backstroke. Adam Deliefde, first in 25-yard breaststroke.

Girls 9-10:

The team of Tammy Gorman, Jessica Lalli, Johannah Kos, and Kaitlin Bond placed second in the 200-yard medley relay.

Johannah Kos, first, and Danielle Poggi, third in 100-yard individual medley. The team of Sarah Fini, Kelly Follis, Jennifer Clark, and Danielle Poggi placed second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Jessica Lalli, first, and Tammy Gorman, third in 50-yard freestyle. Jessica Lalli, second in 50-yard butterfly. Johannah Kos, first, and Tammy Gorman, third in 100-yard freestyle. Jennifer Clark, third in 50-yard backstroke. Kaitlin Bond, second, and Kelly Follis, third in 50-yard breaststroke.

Boys 9-10:

The team of Erik Deliefde, Anthony Ardolino, Jeffrey Lagasse, and Matthew Styckiewicz placed first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Erik Deliefde, first in 100-yard individual medley. The team of William Barker III, Connor Dooley, Alan Gallerani, and Daniel Serna placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Connor Dooley, first, William Barker III, second, and Daniel Serna, third in 50-yard freestyle. Jeffrey Lagasse, first, Matthew Styckiewicz, second, and Alan Gallerani, third in 50-yard butterfly.

Jeffrey Lagasse, first, and Matthew Styckiewicz, third in 100-yard freestyle. Erik Deliefde, first, and Daniel Serna, second in 50-yard backstroke. Anthony Ardolino, third in 50-yard breaststroke.

Girls 11-12:

Jillian Kos, first in 200-yard individual medley. Brittany Theriaque, second in 200-yard freestyle. Jillian Kos, first, and Katie Gorman, second in 50-yard butterfly. Allison Morris, second, and Angela Vinton, third in 100-yard freestyle.

Brittany Theriaque, first, and Katie Gorman, second in 50-yard backstroke. Rebecca Carey, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

The team of Allison Morris, Katie Gorman, Brittany Theriaque, and Jillian Kos placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and the team of Erin Milillo, Elizabeth Couture, Angela Vinton, and Abriana Spagnoli placed third.

Boys 11-12:

The team of Michael Lalli, Kyle Henry, Phillip Prouty, and Matthew Gendron placed first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Kyle Sullivan, first in 200-yard individual medley. Daniel Adamski, first, and Michael Lalli, third in 200-yard freestyle. Phillip Prouty, first in 50-yard freestyle. Kyle Sullivan, first, and Paul Lagasse, second in 50-yard butterfly.

Thomas Gorman, second, and Phillip Prouty, third in 100-yard freestyle. Daniel Adamski, first, and Michael Lalli, second in 50-yard backstroke. Paul Lagasse, first, and Thomas Gorman, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

The team of Thomas Gorman, Kyle Sullivan, Paul Lagasse, and Daniel Adamski placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Girls 13-14:

Hilary Golas, first in 200-yard individual medley. Kyleigh Egan, first, and Kimberly Chmura, third in 200-yard freestyle. Rebecca Morytko, third in 50-yard freestyle. Hilary Golas, first in 100-yard butterfly. Rebecca Morytko, second, and Kimberly Chmura, third in 100-yard freestyle. Kyleigh Egan, second, and Daveen Macsata, third in 100-yard backstroke.

The team of Kimberly Chmura, Kyleigh Egan, Rebecca Morytko, and Hilary Golas placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and the team of Jennifer Grimaldi, Daveen Macsata, Renee Couture, and Kristine Archambault placed third.

Boys 13-14:

Nathan Adamski, first in 200-yard freestyle. Jason St. George, first, and Kevin Grimaldi, second in 50-yard freestyle. Nathan Adamski, first in 100-yard butterfly. Jason St. George, first, and Kevin Grimaldi, second in 100-yard freestyle. Michael Follis, first in 100-yard backstroke. Michael Follis, first in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Michael Follis, Kevin Grimaldi, Jason St. George, and Nathan Adamski placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Boys 15-18:

Matthew Francis, first in 50-yard freestyle. Matthew Francis, third in 100-yard freestyle.

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

To Drill Or Not To Drill... That Is The Question!

The recent warm spell has rendered much of the ice unsafe in the valley waters. There is reportedly some safe (marginal) ice in the northern areas and in the Berkshires. However, there may not be enough to safely support a bunch of ice fishermen in a group.

The good news is that there is some open water that is fishable as of this writing. I am referring to the Connecticut River and some of its tributaries.

Reports of nice catches of large yellow perch and crappies are coming in from cold weather anglers on the river. Try working the mouth of feeder streams and areas such as the mouth of the Chicopee River and the Agawam River.

Early morning seems best according to recent reports. Once a school is located, stay put and work the area thoroughly.

Small jigs tipped with pin heads shiners are accounting for a large number of large perch. An occasional smallmouth is always a welcome bonus.

The trick here is to fish light gear. Four pound test is the order of the day, with some anglers dropping down to two-pound test. Be alert for subtle hits, as the fish's metabolism is rather sluggish in the cold water.

STRIPER ACTION IN THE THAMES

Connecticut anglers are having mixed success on stripers in the Thames River. Reports indicate that the action is either "great" or just so-so, depending on the day.

Stripers are being caught from the town dock area in Norwich, the hot water outflow from the power plant, and at various locations down to the mouth of the river.

Look for humps or other structure in deep water. Check out the edges of the creek channel and work the areas slowly. Lead head jigs with four-inch sassy shad or other similar offerings are producing an occasional keeper, with enough schoolie action to keep the chill out of your bones.

Attention Runners: Try Forest Park Series

Ask any runner what makes training over the winter so difficult and the answer most commonly given might surprise you.

It is not the raw, rainy days, or the infamous Nor'easters that oftentimes leave New England buried in snow and shivering from bitter cold temperatures for days afterwards.

Instead the answer lies simply in the fact that the area lacks organized, competitive road races during the winter months, which for many, including diehards, makes it extremely difficult to maintain the focus and motivation needed to endure and train throughout the winter months.

However, there is one group in the region which has been combating this problem for a number of years now, but due to the lack of mass advertising, has made it one of the area's best-kept secret for runners looking to use area road races to sustain the level of competitiveness achieved during the spring and summer months.

In conjunction with Friendly's Restaurant, Stage West, and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, The Greater Springfield Harriers running club will once again hold its annual Snowstorm Classics.

The Snowstorm Classics, held every Saturday in Springfield's Forest Park, are a series of road races which alternate weekly between a 5,000 meter and 10,000 meter USATF certified course.

What makes these races unique, however, is the fact that not a single race has been cancelled during the 17-year history of the Snowstorm Classics, regardless of the weather or course conditions.

Although the courses are ideal for those looking for both low-key competition and moderately hard training runs, this weekly series also attracts many who are just looking for the opportunity to meet other area runners and enjoy the sights and sounds that Forest Park has to offer.

In addition, at the conclusion of each race, a raffle is held and all registered runners are given the chance to win a variety of prizes, including tickets to Stage West, and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra.

Registration is \$3 and begins at 9:30 a.m. each Saturday near the Skate House by Porter Lake. Races begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and those looking for more information are asked to call (413) 734-0955.

Riverside Speedway Announces First Race Of 1998 Will Be On March 29th

Riverside Park Speedway, celebrating its 50th year of racing, will host the season opening race for the NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour March 29th with the PEPSI 200.

Practice and qualifying will be held Saturday, March 28th and the green flag drops at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. The 200-lap event will be followed by Serv-U Auto Supply Pro Stocks, Sportsman, Mini Stocks, Figure 8, and Super Stock action.

Joe Lewandoski, Director of Auto Racing, is excited about the 1998 campaign and feels "very fortunate that NASCAR has decided to begin their season here at Riverside." Lewandoski also

points out that Riverside will "open and close racing in New England in 1998." The PEPSI 200 is the first stock car race in New England in 1998.

Last year's race, a 150-lap affair, was won by longtime Riverside favorite Reggie Ruggiero. Ruggiero is optimistic about this year's race. "The guys really know how to set up a car for this track," said Ruggiero. "Anything besides another win would be a disappointment." Former Riverside champion Dan Avery finished second, followed by 1997 Tour Champion Mike Stefanik.

For more information, contact Jeremy Davidson at (800) 370-7488 or (413) 786-9300, ext. 3341.

PLEASE REMEMBER our deadline is every Tuesday at noon.

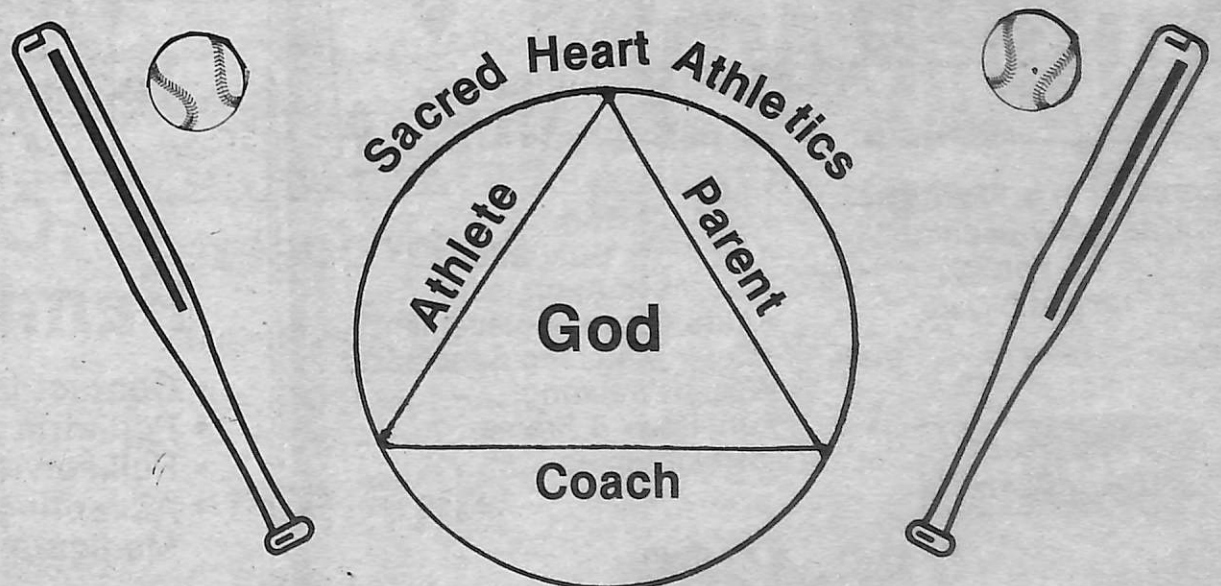
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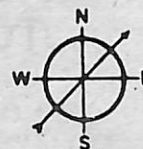
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J.B.S.

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